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IPU Conference Continues

DPRK Official Arranges Banquet for Delegates

SK0205060991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) and chairman of the parliamentary group of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arranged a banquet for the participants in the 85th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] at the Mongnan Pavilion in Pyongyang on the evening of May 1.

Present on invitation were Daouda Sow, president of the council, and Pierre Cornillon, secretary general, of the IPU, members of the Executive Committee of the IPU and delegations and delegates of parliamentary groups of different countries and regional and international organisations.

Also present were the members of the delegation of the parliamentary group of the DPRK headed by Chong Chun-ki, vice- chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA, and officials concerned.

The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

South Korean Speaker Proposes Exchange With North

SK0105053491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Korea, May 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean National Assembly Speaker Pak Chon-kyu invited North Korean lawmakers to visit Seoul and proposed exchanges Wednesday between the parliaments of South and North Korea.

The invitation and proposal were contained in a letter delivered to Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee Chairman Yang Hyong-sop by Rep. Pak Chong-su, chief South Korean delegate to the 85th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU].

"We hope that the lawmakers from the South and North will freely cross over the border and take the lead in breaking the wall and building trust," the letter said. "We cordially invite you to lead a North Korean delegation to Seoul."

There is a call for lawmakers to answer the people's desire for national unification, Pak said in the letter, urging a favorable response.

A 25-member South Korean delegation came to the North Korean capital in the first cross-border visit by lawmakers since the Korean division in 1945.

Kim Il-song Meets With Parliamentarians

Wants To Normalize Japanese Ties

OW0205084791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, May 2 KYODO—North Korean leader Kim Il- song said he wishes to normalize relations with Japan when he met Japanese parliamentarians attending an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Pyongyang on Thursday.

Members of the Japanese delegation to the IPU General Assembly said Kim told them that relations with Japan are becoming closer and more intimate.

They quoted him as saying relations with Japan are the flow of the times and that "not even heaven can obstruct the people's hearts."

Jushiro Komiyama, the head of the delegation and a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), urged Kim in a meeting later to accept inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The officials said Kim did not give any specific reply.

Komiyama also handed Kim a letter and a message from former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, who visited Pyongyang last October. The contents of the letter and the message were not disclosed.

In his visit to Pyongyang last year, Kanemaru and Makoto Tanabe, who is vice chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), signed on behalf of their parties a joint declaration with North Korea's ruling Korean Workers' Party pledging compensation from Japan for its prewar colonization of the Korean peninsula and for disrupted relations since World War II.

Komiyama told Kim that Kanemaru has conveyed a message entrusted to him by the North Korean leader to the United States Government, the officials said.

The details of Kim's message to Washington are not known, but it is thought to cover North Korea-U.S. relations and the question of an inspection by the IAEA.

In talks with Japanese IPU delegation members, Kim said he would welcome a visit by members of a Japanese parliamentary league to promote friendly relations with Pyongyang, the officials said.

Some 300 members are expected to charter a direct flight to Pyongyang in late July.

The IPU General Assembly opened on Monday and will run through Saturday. It is the largest international meeting ever to be held in Pyongyang.

Further on Meeting With Japanese

SK0205113891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the Japanese parliamentary group delegation led by Jushiro Komiyama, member of the House of Representatives, which is participating in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference.

Present there were Kim Yong-sun, secretay of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Meets Iranian Delegates

LD3004152191 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30, IRNA—President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Il-song said today that Saddam Husayn has always been after aggression against other countries and now he was facing the inevitable results.

"The aggressor is doomed to fail," the DPRK leader told members of the Iranian parliamentary delegation participating in the 85th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Pyongyang.

In the meeting, Kim Il-song also spoke of an "urgent necessity" to form an anti-U.S. front, since the U.S. was seeking to dominate all world countries "more firmly than ever before following the Persian Gulf war."

He said the North Korean people, like the people of Iran, were standing against the U.S.

Ex-Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, who is leading the leading the 5-man Iranian delegation, said American imperlialism is planning to undermine the will of free people around the globe especially that of third world nations by harping on its so-called new order."

Mohtashami, also called on revolutionary nations of the world to resist the designs of the imperialist U.S.

Receives Egyptian Delegation

SK0205111091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Ahmad Fathi Surur, speaker of the People's Assembly, which is participating in the 85th Interparliamentary conference.

Present there were Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the parliamentary group of the DPRK, Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and Muhammad Rada al-Taify, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Egyptian Embassy here.

The head of the delegation conveyed to President Kim Il-song a personal letter of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The guests presented him with a gift.

Receives Algerian Delegation

SK0205114291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the Algerian parliamentary group delegation led by Abdelaziz Belkhadem, president of the National People's Assembly, which is participating in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference.

Present there were Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the parliamentary group of the DPRK, Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and Mokhtar Reguieg, Algerian ambassador to Korea.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The head of the delegation conveyed to President Kim Il-song a gift of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Receives Italian Parliamentarians

SK0205114491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the delegation of the Italian parliamentary group headed by Elio Gabbuggiani, member and secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, participating in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice- chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with the guests.

He was presented with a gift by them.

South Korean Delegates Take Guided Tour

SK0205094191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang, North Korea, May 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—Visiting South Korean lawmakers mixed art with real life Thursday, hopping from a museum to an agricultural cooperative on a meticulously guided tour of North Korea.

The North Korean hosts apparently had gone to great lengths to prepare for their guests as a large number of paintings by South Korea-born artists were on display at the Mansudae production.

Plaques identifying the works included details on where the artists were born. One was for Chong Chang-mun, whose birthplace was listed as North Cholla Province in South Korea.

A 25-member South Korean delegation, led by 12 lawmakers, is in the North Korean capital to attend the 85th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU]. The six-day run ends Saturday.

Also on display were paintings and statues of South Korean student Yim Su-kyong and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan. Yim and Mun were both convicted of illegally visiting North Korea, and the coed is still in jail.

Another proposal for inter-Korean exchanges was when Rep. Pak Kwan-yong delivered an invitation from Yi Kwang-chu, head of the Oil Painters' Association, for North Korea to take part in the world oil painting exhibition this August in Pusan.

The invitation was given to Chong Yong-man, chairman of the North Korean Artists Union.

When confronted by the capitalist-oriented question of who keeps the money when a painting is sold, Chong said the artist took it all.

The South Koreans then were driven to a farm cooperative on the outskirts of Pyongyang and given a guided tour by cooperative President Kim Ho-suk.

Kim said the cooperative was the workplace for 5,400 people from 1,100 households who were divided into 30 working groups. Profits were distributed according to daily evaluation points based on group and individual performances, he said.

Signs at the cooperative included one that said leader Kim Il- song had visited the site.

A bit out of the picture was the escort car for the visitors—made by Nissan of Japan.

North Korea is blaming South Korea when tells foreign delegations taking part in a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in Pyongyang that they cannot travel to Seoul through the truce village of Panmunjom. [sentence as received]

Rep. Pak Chong-su, head of the South Korean delegation, made the discovery Thursday when he hosted a luncheon for delegates from Central and South American nations, including Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela and Guatemala.

The guests asked Pak whether it was true that the North could not give permission for them to cross Panmunjom due to opposition by the South.

A parliamentarian from Brazil said a North Korean official refused to accept his request for a visa to pass through the border village because "it is not a border but a military line."

He quoted the official as saying, "issuing a visa to cross the village is tantamount to admitting the presence of two Koreas."

Pak assured them the allegations were false and they could travel directly from Pyongyang to Seoul any time the North permitted.

Japan

Agency Says Minesweepers Escorted by Aircraft

OW0205025391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—As many as 20 Japanese military aircraft have been flying "escort" missions for a six-vessel minesweeping task force now heading for the Persian Gulf, Defense Agency sources said Thursday.

They said the flights appeared to be aimed at ensuring the high morale of the 550 crew members on the Gulf mission.

Defense Agency officials confirmed that the planes had flown over the ships, but called the flights part of a "training exercise."

The flotilla, currently passing through the South China Sea on its way to its first port call in the Philippines, will take part in a multinational cleanup of mines laid by Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

They will make three other port calls before arriving in the Gulf later this month.

Throughout the week, Self-Defense Forces [SDF] aircraft have been flying along the route taken by the ships, which are on Japan's first nontraining mission overseas since the SDF was formed in 1954.

Defense Agency officials said the courses of the flights have overlapped with the course of the minesweepers.

Adm. Hajime Sakuma, the Maritime Self-Defense Force chief of staff, was aboard one of four P-3C antisubmarine patrol planes in formation flight Monday that helped see the mission off when the six ships—four minesweepers, a supply ship, and a support ship—rendezvoused in waters around Amami-Oshima Island off Kagoshima Prefecture before sailing for the Gulf.

Since two of the minesweepers and a support vessel left their home port at Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, on April 26, a dozen or so P-3Cs and smaller US-1 rescue flying boats have made the flight from the Atsugi Base, home of the MSDF Fourth Air Wing in Kanagawa Prefecture, to Naha.

Further, eight F-15 and F-4 fighters from the Air Self-Defense Force flew Tuesday from their Nyutabaru Base in Miyazaki Prefecture to Okinawa. A pair of C-130 military transport planes, which earlier had been tabbed for a Middle East refugee evacuation mission that in the end was carried out by civilian planes, flew Wednesday from Komaki Air Base in Aichi Prefecture to Okinawa.

KYODO Survey Reveals Support for Minesweepers

OW0205120591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—Japanese agree by a more than 2- to-1 margin with the government's decision to send a group of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf to assist with the postwar cleanup there, the results of a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey revealed Thursday.

Half of the 1,000 respondents, however, do not want the Self- Defense Forces [SDF] to participate in United Nations' peacekeeping activities, according to the telephone survey, conducted last Sunday and Monday.

The poll also revealed that the Japanese are split regarding Asia's reaction against the minesweeper mission, with 50.1 percent saying those opposed to the task force are "oversensitive," while 43.8 percent said the reaction is "natural."

The Japanese public has apparently done an about-face on the deployment of the SDF to the Middle East since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war in January, the survey suggests.

At that time, 58 percent of the pollees were against the dispatch of any SDF aircraft to the war-torn region for a refugee evacuation mission.

On Thursday, the KYODO survey showed 62.4 percent of the respondents agreed with last week's dispatch of six Maritime SDF vessels to the Persian Gulf to help clear the vital oil tanker sea lanes of mines laid by the Iraqis before the war.

A total of 30.7 percent are, nevertheless, opposed to the deployment, with another 6.9 percent undecided.

Survey analysts suggested that the respondents were generally in favor of the deployment, like the government, in response to international criticism that it was not enough for Japan to provide only money at a time when people from other nations were risking their lives to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

Japan pledged a total of 13 billion dollars in financial support to the multinational forces that fought the war and to "front-line nations" in the area.

Of the 485 men surveyed, 69 percent were in favor of the ships' dispatch, compared to 56 percent of the 515 women. Surveyors also noticed increased support among older respondents.

Slightly more than half, 51.4 percent, said they thought constitutional issues remain regarding the mission, but 38.3 percent said they saw no problem.

Despite the support for the mission, which got under way last Friday, half the respondents oppose the participation of Japanese troops in U.N. peacekeeping activities. A total of 39.4 percent would support SDF participation, while 10.6 percent were undecided.

Although the number supporting an SDF contribution to U.N. peacekeeping activities is surpassed by those opposed, the level of agreement is three times greater than in a survey last October, when only 13 percent approved.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara, trying not to betray a sense of relief, remarked that "the government had earned the consensus of the people" when informed of the survey results.

Ishihara insisted there were no constitutional problems with the deployment, saying the war has been concluded and the deployment is an international contribution during a time of peace.

Japanese opinion pollsters generally do not provide a margin of error with their results, saying the polls are limited random surveys and not scientific samples.

Directors of the KYODO survey, however, offered hesitantly that the margin of error for this survey would be 3.2 percent.

Hokkaido-Sakhalin Ferry Service Resumes

OW0205052291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Asahikawa, Hokkaido, May 2 KYODO—A ferry service between Hokkaido and Sakhalin resumed for the first time in 46 years Thursday as a ship carrying 83 Japanese passengers left for the Soviet Far East island.

The 1,554-ton ferryboat, the No. 10 Soya Maru, sailed out from Wakkanai Port on the northern tip of Hokkaido in the morning and will arrive at Korsakov Port on the south coast of Sakhalin after a six-and-half-hour voyage, a ferry company official said.

A Sapporo-based travel agent arranged the ferry trip and the Japanese tourists will stay in Sakhalin for six days, the official said.

The vessel will return to Wakkanai on Friday carrying a group of some 100 ethnic Japanese living on Sakhalin, who remained there after World War II.

The company plans to run a tramp ferry service between Wakkanai and Korsakov until September, the official said.

The southern half of the Soviet island, just north of Hokkaido, was Japanese territory during and before the war.

During the prewar period, there was a regular steamship route linking Wakkanai with Korsakov, called Odomari under Japanese rule.

After the war, foreign ships were not allowed to enter Korsakov, which was used as a Soviet naval port. The Soviet Union opened Korsakov port to foreign ships in February.

Better Conditions for Foreign Workers Promised

OW0205120691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—Japan will continue efforts to create good working conditions for foreign technical workers and trainees who are legally permitted to work in the country, according to a report released by the Labor Ministry on Thursday.

The ministry will continue arranging employment procedures for lawfully employed foreign workers and making fact-finding investigations into their working conditions, the report on the ministry's labor policy and perspectives for fiscal 1991 said.

It will step up measures to provide guidelines to Japanese employers on ways of dealing with lawfully and illegally employed foreign workers, while continuing with the policy of prohibiting foreign manual workers from working in Japan, the report said.

Some 72,000 foreign technical workers and trainees were lawfully allowed to work in Japan in 1990, ministry officials said.

Justice Ministry officials have estimated that at least 200,000 foreign workers are illegally working in the country.

Referring to the current employment situation, the report said that Japan's three-and-a-half-year-old business boom has created a lower unemployment rate and good job opportunities for workers.

Japan's unemployment rate has been drifting at around 2.0 to 2.2 percent since September 1989.

Nevertheless, the report called on the government to create more employment opportunities in smaller cities and towns across the country to enable university graduates and school leavers to settle down in such areas.

The government should also draw up a plan to resolve the shortage of labor in medium-sized and small companies, it said.

Former Prime Minister Takeshita Leaves for PRC

OW0205020991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Social Democratic Party Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe left for Beijing on the same flight Thursday to attend the opening of a Japan-China youth center and to hold talks with Chinese leaders.

Takeshita, Tanabe, and another former prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, will attend the center's dedication ceremony Friday. Nakasone has been in China since Tuesday on an eight-day visit.

During his stay in Beijing through Saturday, Takeshita will meet with Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Tanabe, deputy leader of Japan's main opposition party, is heading a seven-member party delegation and will also hold talks with Chinese leaders. The SDP delegation is scheduled to return to Tokyo on Sunday.

North Korea

Spokesman of Football Association Interviewed

SK0205074091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 2 May 91

["Spokesman of DPRK Football Association Interviewed by KCNA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The spokesman for the Football Association of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on May 1 gave the following answers to a question of KCNA as regards the working-level contact between the North and the South for appraisal matches to select players of the unified Korea soccer team for the 6th World Youth Football Championships.

As regards the question of changing the dates of the appraisal matches, our side proposed to readjust the programme of the appraisal match scheduled in Seoul and hold the first appraisal match in Pyongyang on May 8 and the next game in Seoul on around May 12 after the mourning period for the murdered student and his funeral, saying that it is contrary to courtesy and reason to have a soccer game at a family in mourning at a time when a student of Myongji University in South Korea was murdered by combat police and his funeral has not yet been held.

To this, the South side refused to accept our proposal, though it said it was fully understandable that the soccer team of the North side found it hard to go to Seoul on May 2.

So the sides agreed in principle to hold the appraisal matches in Seoul on May 8 and in Pyongyang on May 12 later than scheduled.

Our side added that the appraisal match would be held in Seoul on May 8 on condition that the funeral of the murdered student Kang Kyong-tae is held before that date.

Further on South Protests Over Student's Death

SK0205064791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0540 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—South Korean people are expanding the anti-"government" struggle in protest against the murder of student Kang Kyong-tae, according to reports.

More than 5,000 students of 14 universities in Seoul including Myongji and Korea universities held meetings on April 30 at their universities to condemn the murder.

That day, 15,000 students of Chonnam National University and some 30 other local universities had meetings and demonstrations.

The all-people measure committee on murder of Kang Kong-tae met with reporters and urgently demanded No Tae-u's apology, total resignation of the puppet cabinet, arrest of all those who had been involved in the case and their punishment and dissolution of the white bone group [paekkoldan, a plainclothes riot police unit].

About 700 teachers of Chonnam National University on May 1 made public a statement in the name of the entire teachers, strongly demanding a thoroughgoing investigation into the murder of Kang Kyong-tae, punishment of the chief official responsible for it, disorganization of the white bone group, a total change of the police system causing the violent suppression of demonstrations and the abolition of the "security-oriented policy" causing demonstrations.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-kyun, second-year student of Andong College, Andong City, North Kyongsang Province, attempted to burn himself to death by spraying thinner over his body after participating in the memorial service for Kang Kyong-tae on May 1, following woman student Pak Sung-hui of Chonnam National University. He is in a critical condition with third degree burns.

ROK Government's Reaction Viewed

SK0205064991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0552 GMT 2 May 91

["Mastermind of Murder Must Be Punished"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—No Tae-u must give up at once the foolish attempt to save the situation caused by the murder of student Kang Kyong-tae with a third-rate trick and face a stern judgement by the people, demands NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

With a view to quelling the struggle of the South Korean students and citizens against the murder of Kang Kyong-tae, No Tae-u on April 29 summoned the new "Home Minister" and "instructed" him to take measures lest such incident should "recur", mumbling that he "felt pang" at the "unhappy incident." The puppet prime minister and the new puppet home minister that day talked about "apology" and "prevention of recurrence" of such incident.

It is ridiculous and shameless of those hell bent on violence and repression of the people to abruptly talk about "regret," "apology" and "prevention of recurrence" as if they would safeguard the security of the people, says the news analyst, and continues:

The recent murder of the patriotic student is not a casual accident or a result of carelessness during "excessive repression" by some policemen.

It is an inevitable product of the violence of the present "government" engaged in mass terrorism and murder.

No Tae-u is the mastermind of murder in South Korea.

It is a disgusting political cartoon that such a fellow makes a fuss, saying he "felt pang" at the "unhappy incident".

This is a deceptive trick of the No Tae-u group to conceal its unpardonable crime and lull the mounting spirit of the South Korean students and people against dictatorship and against No Tae-u.

The South Korean students and people will never pardon the murderous crimes of the No Tae-u group but will revenge themselves on the group a thousand fold.

U.S. 29 Apr Aerial Military Exercises Reported

SK0105090291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command staged a joint air and ground strike exercise for a surprise attack on the northern half of the country in the skies above Wonju, Tokjok Island, Kongju, Oeyon Island and Kangnung of South Korea on April 29, according to military sources.

More than 160 fighter-bombers and observation planes of the U.S. Seventh Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce were mobilized in the war game aimed at increasing the combined combat capabilities of the flying corps of the U.S. Airforce and the South Korean puppet airforce in "case of emergency" on the Korean peninsula.

On the same day, the U.S. Pacific Airforce Command brought to South Korea nuclear-capable F-15 fighter-bombers based in Kadena, Japan, and formations of C-130 and C-12 transport planes loaded with huge amount of combat materials based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific.

On April 29, the U.S. imperialists sent such high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and army tactical reconnaissance planes as U-2, RC-12 and RV-1 above the areas along the Military Demarcation Line for an intensive aerial espionage on our side.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets frantically staged an attack exercise against the North for hours in the Pochon area with a massive mobilisation of ground force under the cover of scores of F-4, F-5 and A-37 planes.

On April 29 alone, more than 600 planes flew above South Korea for aerial war games.

U.S. 'Nuclear Strike' Exercises in South Noted

SK0205060791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command sent formations of overseas-based F-15 and F-16 fighter-bombers and formations of F-16 fighter bombers of the U.S. 7th Airforce stationed in South Korea to the skies above Kongju, Yongdong, Oeyon Islet, Yoju and Sangju of South Korea on April 30 to stage an aerial nuclear strike exercise for a preemptive attack on the targets in the strategical depths of the northern half of the country, according to military sources.

And Guam-based KC-135 refuelling tankers in the sky above Oeyon Islet conducted an exercise of mid-air refuelling to formations of F-16 fighter-bombers and OA-10 observation planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets let U-2, RC-12, RV-1 and RF-4 high-altitude strategical reconnaissance planes and army tactical reconnaissance planes fly above the Military Demarcation Line on 24 occasions for an aerial espionage and photographing.

At the same time, the South Korean puppets frantically staged a ground attack operation in the Kapyong area and an atack operation in the sea off Inchon under the support of fighter-bombers.

The military planes which flew above South Korea that day numbered more than 560.

Daily Condemns U.S. Nuclear Inspection Stand

SK0205113491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 2 May 91

["Who Is Violating Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty does not give the United States the rights to force all manner of humiliation upon nonnuclear nations and fool with their vital rights, says NODONG SINMUN in a bylined article today.

If the U.S. authorities truly want to have the nuclear threat removed from the Korean peninsula, they, instead of taking issue with us who have no nuclear weapons and do not develop such kind of weapons, must above all remove the elements of nuclear threat to us, make security commitments, stop nuclear military exercises in South Korea and take steps to withdraw their nuclear weapons, notes the article.

The U.S. imperialists, through international conferences, press interviews and subsidized publications, are now spreading lies that we have refused to sign a nuclear safeguards accord and are developing nuclear weapons. Further, they are inveigling the South Korean authorities and other stooges of theirs and some other countries into this anti-DPRK campaign, the article says, and continues:

In his recent answers to the questions raised by the managing editor of the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI SHIMBUN, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"It is unreasonable for the United States to fuss about the nuclear inspection of somebody else while they themvelves have made South Korea a most dangerous nuclear base and are threatening us."

The U.S. imperialists' taking issue with us over the nuclear inspection problem is a brazen act reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief!" This reckless row of theirs is a base trick to mar the international prestige and dignity of our Republic and isolate us internationally and a crafty scheme to cover up their true color in posing a direct nuclear threat to us and divert elsewhere home and foreign public opinion.

Our Republic, regarding it as its noble mission and responsibility to the time and history to prevent a nuclear war and save mankind from nuclear threat, has not only steadfastly opposed the test, production, stockpile and use of nuclear weapons but also strongly demanded a comprehensive and complete elimination of all the nuclear weapons. It joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty with a view to removing the nuclear threat to our people and turning the Korean peninsula into a nuke-free zone, and has made strenuous efforts to, first of all, dispel the danger of a nuclear war and ensure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula in conformity with the idea of this Treaty.

As the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has become an urgent demand which should be met immediately, we have repeatedly proposed to the U.S. authorities to have talks for an early settlement of this question.

It is because the United States has not honestly discharged its obligation under the Nonproliferation Treaty that none of our anti-nuke peace overtures have been realized and the danger of nuclear war is increasing on the Korean peninsula.

It is stipulated in the Nonproliferation Treaty that the states with nuclear weapons should not threaten other nations with these weapons or use nuclear weapons but should refrain from creating an emergency state endangering the fundamental interests of nonnuclear states, make every effort possible to avert nuclear war and take measures to defend the security of the people.

Contrary to this demand of the treaty, the U.S. imperialists have deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea, turned it into the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East and the most dangerous source of nuclear war and increased nuclear threat to us with nuclear war exercises including the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers.

It is also stipulated in the Nonproliferation Treaty that the states with nuclear weapons should endeavour to realise universal and complete disarmament and stop the test of nuclear weapons, assume the obligation to establish nuclear-free zones, ban the proliferation of nuclear weapons, dismantle and abolish nuclear weapons.

But, the United States, behind the facade of nuclear disarmament negotiation, is continuing underground nuclear tests, developing new-type nuclear weapons, constantly enlarging the nuclear arsenals and openly engaging itself in qualitative improvement and quantitative increase of nuclear weapons, vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons such as deployment of nuclear weapons in other areas, while doggedly opposing the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and other parts of the world.

As for the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord, we have never refused it but are willing to sign it as soon as possible. We and the international atomic energy agency have reached an agreement on it in the main. It is because the United States has not created necessary climate and conditions that we have not yet signed it.

As is recognized by international law, the signing of an accord is a matter belonging to the independent rights of a sovereign state. It is self-evident that no one can sign the nuclear safeguards accord, conniving at the practical nuclear threat to himself and leaving the soveignty of the country and vital rights of the nation exposed to danger, even if it is required by the NPT.

We would like to ask the Americans what they would do if any country had bisected the United States into North and South or into East and West, deployed nuclear weapons and its troops in one part and posed nuclear threat to the other. We also would like to ask the same question to those countries which raise the nuclear inspection problem to us in collusion with the United States.

It is our legitimate right to urge the United States to remove nuclear threat to us and commit itself to guarantee our security. And it is an obligation of the United States to meet our demand as a nuclear state.

Nuclear inspection is a matter to be done under the nuclear safeguards accord after it is signed by us and the international atomic energy agency. If the United States wants inspection on our nuclear facilities, it must allow simultaneous inspection on its nuclear weapons and nuclear facilities in South Korea.

For the United States to force some sort of implementation on nonnuclear states while failing to discharge its obligation under the NPT is an arrogant act and does not accord with the principle of impartiality recognised by international law. Even if the United States arbitrarily acts, slandering us, it can never go down with anyone.

The South Korean authorities must stop playing the shameful role of a marionette, ridiculously slandering us with the nuclear inspection problem on the script of their master, U.S. imperialism.

Labor Group Resolution on Relations With Japan

SK0205101791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—A resolution demanding an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations was adopted recently at the 8th meeting of the Central Struggle Committee of the All-Japan Harbour Workers Union.

The resolution stressed that Japanese imperialism had forced a colonial rule on Korea for 36 years and the Japanese Government has pursued a policy hostile to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the past 45 years after the war, pursuing a U.S.-toeing policy.

Noting that the Japanese Government is failing to approach the intergovernmental full-dress talks with sincerity, it said:

In regard to the basic issues for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations the Japanese Government must frankly admit the historical fact that the treaties and agreements signed at the time of the Japanese imperialist occupation of Korea were forced on her by Japan's armed aggression and, moreover, as regards the compensation question, it must admit that it is obliged to make a due compensation since the prime minister himself felt responsibility for the hostile policy against the DPRK over the past 45 years after the war and apologized for the hardships imposed on the Korean people.

As far as the nuclear inspection question is concerned, we also consider it unreasonable for the Japanese Government to demand a unilateral inspection of the DPRK which made it clear that she has neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear arms, while failing to express any views on the nuclear weapons of the U.S. forces in South Korea.

If the Japanese Government really wants peace in Asia, it must show an appropriate attitude toward acts of obstructing the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Kim Yong-sun Speaks to Ecuadoran Delegation

SK0205062591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0535 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] arranged a party on May 1 for the delegation of the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador.

In his speech, Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, noted that the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador is making great efforts to build an independent and prosperous, democratic new society representing the will of its people. In its external policy, the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador rejects outside interference and domination of all forms, opposes aggression and war and calls for peace and the establishment of an equitable international order, he said, and declared: Our party will in the future, too, make all efforts to expand and develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation with your party.

Head of the delegation Nicolas Issa Ovando, general secretary of the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador, said in his speech that he was struck with admiration at the heroism of the Korean people displayed in the struggle to liberate the country from the rule of the Japanese imperialists and in the war forced by the United States in 1950.

All the achievements made by the Workers' Party and the people of Korea are results of the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and of the creative labour of the people who uphold the chuche idea founded by him.

The speaker expressed support to and solidarity with the just struggle of the Korean people under the guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

While staying in Korea, I am more firmly resolved to build a society in my country like in Korea, whose reality greatly encourages us, he added.

Vice-Premier Speaks at Tanzania Delegates' Party

SK0205053291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a party at the Ongnyu Restaurant on May 1 for the visiting government delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania headed by Ahmed Hassan Diria, minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam spoke first at the party.

He said that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries have great vitality because they are based on the special intimacy between the great leader comrade Kim Il-song and respected His Excellency President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and esteemed His Excellency Julius K. Nyerere.

Pointing out that the fraternal Tanzanian people are convincingly advancing toward socialism chosen by themselves along the road indicated by the "Arusha declaration", he sincerely wished them greater success in their struggle for the building of a new society and for the independent development of their country.

In his speech, Ahmed Hassan Diria said: I am very happy to note that the friendly relations forged by party and state leaders of the two countries are excellently developing on good terms in the interests of the two peoples. We will continue to strengthen and develop such friendly and cooperative relations based on the principle of socialism and self-reliance.

During the current visit, we are going to fully exchange opinions on the relations between the two countries and international issues which give rise to serious concern among non-aligned and other developing countries.

The party proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Leaders Celebrate May Day With Workers

SK0205061891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—The working class of Korea significantly celebrated May Day, the international holiday of the workers of the world.

O Chin-u, Yon Hyong-muk, Pak Song-chol and other party and government cadres went out to industrial establishments in Pyongyang and local areas and congratulated workers, enjoying the holiday with them.

A joint gathering of working people in Pyongyang and foreign guests was held on Nungra Island, a scenic recreation ground for the people in the city.

Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, declared in his speech:

The Korean working people and other people will in the future, too, firmly unite with the working people of all peaceloving countries of the world including socialist countries and non-aligned countries aspiring after independence, peace and friendship, holding ever higher the banner of anti-imperialism and independence and staunchly fight to destroy the old international order of domination and subjugation, establish a new international order based on independence and build a peaceful and prosperous, new independent world free from war.

Then, artistes in Pyongyang gave a performance.

A colorful program of solos, choruses and dances were put on the stage, beginning with a chorus of "Long live Marshal Kim Il-song" and "Song of May Day".

Foreign children also sang a song.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience.

It was followed by sports and amusement games.

Korean working people and foreign guests deepened the feelings of friendship, playing colorful sports and amusement games such as "running with a ball on top of a pole", "running with feet in a flour sack" and "tug of war".

A May Day banquet was given in the evening.

An evening dancing party of working people in Pyongyang took place to celebrate May Day.

More Activities Marking KPA Anniversary Noted

O Chin-u, Others Lay Wreaths

SK0205053491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] This morning, the party and government cadres, soldiers of the People's Army, and working people laid wreaths at the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt Taesong on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA], the revolutionary armed forces of our party. [passage omitted]

Present at the wreath laying ceremony were Comrades O Chin-u, Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Choe Kwang, Kye Ung-tae, Choe Tae-pok, Choe Yong-nim, Kim Chol-man, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Chung-nin, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan; responsible functionaries of the party, governing organ, administrative and economic organs, social organizations, central organs; fighters of the anti-Japanese revolution; officers and men of the KPA; functionaries of the scientific, education, cultural, art, public health, and press organs; soldiers of the People's Army; and the workers, youths, and students of the city. [passage omitted]

Pak Song-chol, Others Lay Wreaths

SK0205075291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] This morning, the party and government cadres, soldiers of the People's Army, and working people laid wreaths before the Patriotic Martyrs' Cemetery on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA], the revolutionary Armed Forces of our party. [passage omitted]

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony were Comrades Pak Song-chol, Han Song-yong, Kang Hui-won, Yun Ki-pok, Chang Chol; responsible functionaries of the party, governing organ, administrative and economic organs, social organizations; officers and men of the KPA; responsible functionaries of the central organs and education organizations; soldiers of the People's Army; and the workers, youths, and students of the city. [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-nam, Others Lay Wreaths

SK0205075891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] This morning, party and government cadres, soldiers of the People's Army, and working people laid wreaths at the monument to the fallen fighters of the People's Army on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA], the revolutionary armed forces of our party. [passage omitted]

Present at the wreath laying ceremony were Comrades Kim Yong-nam, Chon Pyong-ho, Hong Song-nam, So Kwan-hui, Kim Tal-hyon; responsible functionaries of the party, governing organs, administrative and economic organs, social organizations; officers and men of the KPA;

responsible functionaries of education organizations; soldiers of the People's Army; and workers, youths, and students of the city. [passage omitted]

Daily Observes KPA Anniversary

SK0205123491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[NODONG SINMUN 25 April editorial: "The Korean People's Army Is the Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Which Are Advancing, Upholding the Leadership of the Party and the Leader"]

[Text] Fifty-nine years have passed since the Korean People's Army [KPA], the revolutionary armed forces of our party, was founded. The might of our People's Army, which is vigorously advancing forward and demonstrating its proud, glorious history and tradition, has become even more invincible. Recalling with deep emotion the militant route of our People's Army which has devotedly struggled for the party's cause—the cause of socialism—all party members and working people extend enthusiastic congratulations to the officers and men of the People's Army on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the KPA.

That the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Korean People Revolutionary Army [KPRA] 59 years ago was a historic event which was of immortal significance in pioneering the future of our fatherland and nation and of advancing our revolution victoriously. With the founding of the KPRA, the firm guarantee of an armed forces which makes it possible to brilliantly consummate our revolutionary cause was provided, and the historically long-cherished desire of the Korean communists and people to have a revolutionary armed forces was brilliantly realized.

The achievements of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who opened a bright prospect on the road of our revolution by building the a new type of revolutionary armed ranks while in the early period of his pioneering of the arduous Korean revolution, further shines with the advance of the revolution. The KPA is the glorious revolutionary armed forces that have performed immortal great services for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people in their militant course of nearly 60 long years, immortal great services which will long remain in history.

Ever since its historical beginning was marked, our revolution has pioneered its route amid the fierce confrontation with the vicious imperialist forces of aggression. On this route, our people have undergone numerous periods of formidable trials deciding the destiny of the fatherland and the revolution. However, because of the wise leadership of the party and the leader, and because of the existence of the reliable revolutionary army which defends the party's revolutionary cause, our revolution has been firmly defended and its lifeline has been firmly maintained.

All the victories and successes won in the Korean revolution, and all the gains of the revolution that have appeared on this land, cannot be contemplated apart from the heroic exploits and indomitable struggle of our Army. Under the leadership of the great leader, the KPRA resolutely waged the arduous armed struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors. Thus, the KPRA liberated our nation from the yoke of colonialism and brought about the new spring of national liberation. The victory in the great battle against Japan was the great victory which demonstrated the invincible might of our people and of our revolutionary armed forces, and which opened the new era of struggle against colonialism and for national liberation. The achievements of our revolutionary armed forces, which made outstanding contributions to saving the nation from distress and to creating the glorious revolutionary tradition of our party, cannot be comparable with anything.

During the great Fatherland Liberation War, the KPA, which had inherited the proud struggle tradition of the KPRA, dealt disgraceful defeats to the U.S. imperialist aggressors—who bragged of being the strongest in the world—by displaying matchless heroism and sacrificing spirit, upholding Comrade Supreme Commander's order. In the period of socialist construction, too, the People's Army reliably defended the security of the country and sovereignty of the nation, while sternly smashing the enenmies' constant provocation maneuvers. Whenever the enemies' maneuvers against socialism became unscrupulous, standing in the forefront of the struggle of resolutely defending the party and the revolution was our army.

Our fatherland has been able to demonstrate its grand appearance as the fatherland of chuche enjoying grandeur and prosperity. This is precisely because of the existence of our People's Army which has the indomitable will and strong might to defend our socialist system and our fatherland with their life. Our people will never forget the achievements and exploits of the People's Army which has brilliantly performed its historic mission of firmly grasping the weapon of the revolution and of defending the party's cause with armed forces.

Recalling the militant course on which our revolutionary armed forces have traversed, what we are most proud of is the fact that the People's Army has been strengthened and developed into an army of the party and an army of the revolution, which has been formed into one united body with the party.

The dear leader Comrade Kim chong-il has indicated: It is the greatest glory and pride of our party that we have the People's Army which resolutely safeguards and defends the party and the leader and which implements to the end the orders and instructions of the party, reguardless of circumstances.

The party is the guide [hyangdoja] of the revolution, and the army is the defender of the party's cause. The party which leads the revolution cannot be separated from the army, and the party and the army should form one united body. Only the party which has a mighty army can lead the revolution and construction to victory, and only the army which is infinitely loyal to the party and the leader can perform its revolutionary duty. It is the truth which has been fully proven by the protracted historic practice of building the party and the army of the working class.

The route on which our People's Army has been strengthened and developed has been the route through which it has grown to be the firm and strong defender of the party and formed a perfect whole with the party. In particular, amid the struggle for modeling the entire army through the chuche idea, the lofty revolutionary relationship between the party and the army in which they share the same destiny to the end has been further consolidated and developed. The indomitable revolutionary spirit of safeguarding and defending the absolute prestige of the party and the leader politically, ideologically, and with life is precisely the important ideological and mental ethos of our People's Army which has formed one united body with the party.

Our People's Army has been most astute in the struggle to defend the political and ideological cohesion and unity of the revolutionary ranks and in safeguarding the lofty leadership status of the party and the leader. The wisdom of our People's Army, which struggled to defend the singlehearted unity of our party and the revolutioanry ranks and to safeguard the party's cause, holding aloft the slogan, "Let us defend with our life the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Il-song," whenever the enemies at home and abroad provoked our party in the past, was indeed firm and thorough. This lofty struggle spirit has been inherited to the nineties as it is and is being displayed loftier today.

The entire army today is filled with the firm determination which does not make any concession even to the slightest degree pertaining to the matters related to the prestige of the party and the leader while absolutely trusting only the leader. Young commanders and solders of the new generation, let alone old commanders who have staunchly traversed the single road of the revolution together with the party for scores of years, breathe and act only according to the breath of the party, upholding the leadership of the party center [tang chungang]. Because of the existence of the armed ranks of such genuine loyalists, the center of unity, the center of leadership, has been firmly defended in our revolution.

Another noble ethos of our People's Army which has formed one united body with the party is that it has the struggle spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality, of implementing the party's plan and intent to the end, reguardless of circumstances.

Today, the entire army is filled to overflowing with the noble struggle ethos in which all problems which arise in army building and military work are implemented according to the party's intent and in which all ranks move as one under the unitary leadership of the party center. Because of its strong and tough military spirit of struggling, reguardless of circumstances, in response to the party's call, the KPA has been able to create the most glorious history of heroic epic of the revolutionary army.

Our People's Army's spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality has been thoroughly displayed in the great nature-remaking work which is being carried out for the country's grandeur and prosperity and for the people's happiness. Our People's Army is not only the strong and powerful armed ranks which uphold and defend the party's cause, but is also the powerful unit of creation and construction which are implementing the grand socialist construction plan of the party, standing at the head of it.

The People's Army vigorously ran to the most difficult outposts of socialist construction at the call of the party and unreservedly displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. Thus, the army has done a lot in achieving the country's prosperity and strengthening the country's might.

Our army's ever-victorious and indomitable struggle spirit of fulfilling any duties assigned by the party to the end is incomparable. Numerous great monumental edifices, including the Soehae lockgate and the Sunchon vinalon complex, which have been built, demonstrating the dignified appearance of the fatherland, are associated with the noble sweat of the soldiers of our People's Army who have devotedly struggled for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people with the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality. The lofty ethos of our People's Army which has formed one united body with the party is also that it upholds the party's cause generation after generation with the firm belief in the future of the revolution and the faith in certain victory in the revolution.

Today, the imperialists are frantically running wild for their maneuvers against socialism. In particular, they are concentrating their main efforts on destroying unity between the party and the people and between the party and the revolutionary army. Under such circumstances, it is important for the revolutionary army to firmly adhere to its class stand as the party's army and to more firmly unite around the party. Only such an army can not only defend its glorious struggle tradition generation after generation, but also firmly protect the nation's sovereignty and the revolutionary gains.

Today, our People's Army is filled with the firm determination to share its fate with the party to the end without the slightest degree of trepidation, while entrusting its destiny to the party. Living and struggling in a revolutionary manner while singing the song of faith, "Those who are cowardly, go ahead, if you want and we will defend the red flag," and firmly grasping the weapon of the revolution, the weapon of class, given by the party and the people, is precisely the noble ethos of soldiers of the People's Army today.

Recently, officers and men of the 525th KPA unit sent a letter vowing loyalty, which was full of absolute faith and sense of obligation toward their leader [yongdoja], to the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, and Comrade Kim Chong-il sent to them his personal letter filled with trust in the revolutionary army. This constitutes a lofty canvas which clearly shows that our party and our army are one eternal united body. Today, the KPA is demonstrating its grand appearance as a most dignified revolutionary army because of its infinite loyalty to the party and the leader and its resolute character of principle, because of its spirit of devotedly serving the fatherland and the people, and because of the immortal achievements that it has registered for the party's cause.

No strength can block the march of these iron-willed ranks which are vigorously advancing, firmly uniting with the party. It is thanks to the tested leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious party that our revolutionary armed forces have been able to resolutely defend the party's cause and to create brilliant exploits for the fatherland and the people in the past. Our People's Army is the army of the leader, the army of the party, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has personally fostered through his protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle.

The respected and beloved leader set forth chuche-oriented army building ideology and theory already in his early days and, thus, gave perfect answers to all problems which arose in building the revolutionary armed forces. At the same time, the great leader, by brilliantly embodying the chuche-oriented army building ideology and theory, has strengthened and developed the People's Army into the revolutionary army of one-a-match-for-100 strength which can firmly guarantee our revolutionary cause with force of arms.

Apart from the great leader's leadership, we cannot think of the revolutioanry character of the People's Army nor can we think of its proud history and glorious future. Invariably holding in high esteem the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the ever-victorious, iron-willed commander—who was the great founder of our army who personally built the first rank of the revolutionary armed forces in the dawn of the Korean revolution and who has achieved rich experiences in army building for the protracted revolutionary period of over 60 years—as the supreme commander is the utmost glory and happiness of our People's Army.

The chuche-oriented army building cause that the great leader brilliantly pioneered is being outstandingly inherited by our party today. Under the slogan of modeling the entire army after the chuche idea, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has made great progress in the work of firmly arming all sodiers with the great chuche idea and of fostering them to become the vanguards of the revolution who possess lofty revolutionary spirit, firm patriotic spirit, and strong and thorough anti-imperialist class consciousness.

Our party has firmly consolidated the revolutionary core within the People's Army, which never wavers in the face of any storm. This is a great feat.

Thanks to the party's wise leadership, a new advance has been effected in the work of strengthening the People's Army militarily and technologically.

Today, our People's Army is equipped with modern armored equipment capable of repelling any aggression by our enemies. All soldiers are well versed in the chuche-oriented strategy as well as in modern military science and technology. This is a brilliant outcome of the wise leadership of our party which from their founding has led the forces to victory.

Our revolutionary cause, bestowed in the forest of Mt. Paektu, has not been finished yet. Rather, more difficult and enormous tasks arise before us.

The aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet ring against the northern half of the Republic has become more undisguised as days go by.

Reality demands that the success effected in the process of founding the army in the past be consolidated and that the work of strengthening the mighty and militant forces of the People's Army be continued. Consolidating the forces and completing the revolution and construction to the end are the firmest will of our party.

We should effect a new turn in the work of carrying out the party's military line and in the work of strengthening the might of the revolutionary armed forces. The invincible might of the revolutionary army lies in its political and ideological superiority.

The revolutionary army, directly confronted by the imperialist aggressors with weapons in hand, should not neglect to display their political and ideological superiority even for a moment. We should value the tradition of loyalty, historically created by our revolutionary armed forces, and more firmly inherit it in the process of the 1990's march.

Like the youthful communists and anti-Japanese guerrillas who upheld the great marshal as the center of unity and defended him by devoting their lives, all soldiers of the People's Army should be an indestructible fortress and shield, which resolutely defends and protects the party and the leader, come what may. In addition, the whole army should be thoroughly united around the party and the leader.

Along with this, all soldiers, including commanding cadres of the People's Army, on the basis of loyalty to the party and the revolution and revolutionary camaraderie, should firmly unite in ideology and purpose, and should bring into full play the traditional spirit of the unity between officers and men.

All soldiers of the People's Army, upholding the party's military line and policy, should continuously strengthen their training in combat and politics in keeping with the development of reality. By so doing, they can smash the enemy's aggressive moves at a proper time. In addition, they should firmly prepare themselves to reliably defend our party, the leader, our system, and our socialist fatherland.

The soldiers of the People's Army, mobilized into the grand socialist construction, should cherish deep in their minds the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality toward the party's policy, and should bring into full play mass heroism. Thereby, they should continuously create new exploits and miracles in carrying out the party's grand nature-remaking plan.

Forging blood ties with the people and enjoying the absolute support of the people are a great honor and pride of the revolutionary army. From the early period of founding the army, our army has taken as a firm policy the saying that the guerrillas cannot live with the people just as fish cannot live without water. And, it has put the great strength into the work of solidifying blood ties with the people, and has struggled through thick and thin to defend the interests, life, and assets of the people.

By brilliantly carrying forward the traditional unity between the army and the people, all soldiers of the People's Army should discharge to the end the noble mission and duty of our People's Army, which is composed of the true sons and daughters and which struggles for the sacred cause of the people.

It is very important that all the party, all the nation, and all the people bring into full play the ethos of positively supporting the People's Army. Helping the army and valuing the military are a very responsible task to firmly defend the revolutionary achievements and the nation's right to independence.

All the party members and the working people should not forget that, because the soldiers of the People's Army have firmly safeguarded the fatherland's line of defense, they carry out socialist construction and lead happy lives without worry. In addition, they treasure, love, and genuinely help the soldiers like their own sons and daughters.

In order for soldiers to brilliantly carry out their militant tasks, the party organizations at every level should always pay deep attention to them. And, they should responsibly settle issues arising in strengthening the People's Army.

In addition, they should bring into full play the social ethos of positively extolling the discharged soldiers for honorably completing military service, and the ethos of respecting and loving honorable soldiers.

Our People's Army, which has followed the brilliant militant road for approximately 60 years, is entering a new stage of development under the great party's leadership.

Only brilliant victory and honor await along the path of the KPA, which is thoroughly united around our party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, and which guarantees the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause.

Han Song-yong Participates in Rally 22 Apr

SK0205071191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1100 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Excerpts] On 22 April, a rally to deliver a thank-you message by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the workers of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex was held on-the-spot. [passage omitted]

Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and secretary of the party Central Committee; Pak Sung-il, responsible secretary of the party of Nampo and chairman of the People's Committee of Nampo; and other functionaries concerned participated in the rally with the workers of the complex.

The rally started with the singing of the General Kim Il-song song. First of all, Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and secretary of the party Central Committee, delivered the thank-you message by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the workers of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex. Next discussions took place to express their resolve. [passage omitted]

Sinjong Reservoir Constructed in South Pyongan

SK2704154691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—The large Sinjong Reservoir has been built on the west coastal area of South Pyongan Province in the central part of Korea, which will help consolidate the might of the big loop-shape irrigation system formed there.

With its completion more sufficient water will be supplied to more than 1,000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields in Pyongwon and Taedong Counties.

The constructors moved 287,000 cubic metres of earth and carried out concrete tamping of more than 1,800 cubic metres and stone-laying in 14,800 square metres in a short period and finished 11 structural projects and built the reservoir as a creation of eternal value.

A ceremony for its completion was held on April 26.

KCNA Review of 2 May Pyongyang Press

SK0205064691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 2 May 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang May 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on his 79th birthday and report that a special bulletin was published in Guyana to mark the anniversary, April 15.

Carried in the press are words of participants in the 85th Interparliamentary Conference saying that the great leader President Kim Il-song's speech "For a Free and Peaceful New World" serves as a great program indicating the way of building an independent new world. Japanese papers reported about this speech, says the press.

Given in the press are accounts of a meeting and a seminar held to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of the work "On Thoroughly Establishing the Creative System of Our-style Revolutionary Films" by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN deals with a story telling that Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely directed efforts to develop the integrated fruit farm, Kwail County, South Hwanghae Province, into a large fruit producer.

According to the press, thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to workteams of the Komdok mining complex which carried out their yearly plan or first half-yearly plan ahead of schedule.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for passionately loving and further glorifying the homeland of chuche and MINJU CHOSON for thoroughly implementing the Taean work system to bring about a turn in the economic guidance and management.

The press informs the readers that party and government cadres joined workers in May Day celebrations and a joint gathering of Pyongyang working people and foreign guests and an evening dancing party of Pyongyang working people were held on May Day.

Papers carry news of the third-day sitting of the 85th Interparliamentary Conference and a banquet arranged by the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly for the participants in the conference.

Dailies inform the readers that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea hosted a reception for the delegation of the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador and the Government of the DPRK gave a reception for the Tanzanian Government delegation. Speeches made there are carried in the press.

It is reported in the press that Vietnamese party and state leading cadres met the DPRK Government delegation headed by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, new DPRK ambassador to Mauritania Kim Chang-yong presented his credentials to the head of state who is president of the Military Committee of National Salvation of Mauritania and the chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru met the DPRK ambassador to his country.

The spokesman for the football association of the DPRK answered a question put by KCNA as regards the working-level contact between the North and the South for appraisal matches to select players of the unified Korea soccer team for the 6th World Youth Football Championships and Japanese newspapers highlighted news that the unified Korea table tennis team took the women's team title, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary stressed that the No Tae-u ruling group is resorting to trickery in an attempt to cover up the brutality in murdering student Kang Kyong-tae.

South Korean news of the press includes a report that the struggle in protest against the violent murder of student Kang Kyong-tae is expanding in South Korea.

Dailies inform the readers that Premier Li Peng of China called for strengthening the management of state property, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of China elaborated on international issues and the presidency of state and army of Yugoslavia stressed the need to check the extremists' move.

NODONG SINMUN in an article captioned "Who Is Violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?" denounced the U.S. imperialists for viciously slandering the DPRK as regards nuclear inspection.

South Korea

Editorial Views South 'Maneuvers' To Enter UN

SK2704011091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Ripe for ROK UN Entry"]

[Text] The Republic of Korea has confirmed a policy to seek entry into the United Nations within the year and has launched positive diplomatic maneuvers to that end. The tentative plan is to submit an application for U.N. membership in August, so that the forthcoming 46th U.N. General Assembly session to be held in the fall can take action on the bid.

Seoul continues to hold that both South and North Korea should join the world body as separate members, but if Pyongyang refuses to enter, Seoul will even unilaterally seek a separate U.N. seat. In line with the policy, the government sent a memorandum to the U.N. Security Council early this month.

Indeed, the Seoul entry into the U.N. is long overdue. Since the establishment of the Republic of Korea in 1948, the government has submitted applications for a U.N. seat on eight occasions, yet they were all turned down by the world forum as the Soviet Union vetoed them four times, and the U.N. Security Council pigeonholed them on the other occasions.

However, the chances for entry have grown with the change of the Soviet attitude toward the Korean question at the U.N. since its establishment of full diplomatic relations with Seoul last September. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, during his summit with President No Tae-u last Saturday, expressed his government's support for Seoul's bid for U.N. membership, further brightening prospects.

The Republic of Korea has ample reason to ask for U.N. admission under the universality principle of the United Nations, in the light of the fact that Seoul maintains diplomatic ties with 148 states and Pyongyang with 105, while the nations with which South and North have relations number 90.

As the world's 12th largest trading nation, the Republic of Korea is firmly committed to the fulfillment of the U.N. Charter and ready to make its due contribution to the U.N. task as a responsible and viable member. At this juncture, it seems to be rather unnatural that the ROK has been long denied a U.N. seat.

The government plans to apply for the world body around August 10, the required 35 days in advance of the opening of the General Assembly. In the meantime, the ROK will continue its effort on persuading the Pyongyang leadership to join the U.N. together with Seoul or at a time Pyongyang deems appropriate.

The North is still adamant in its opposition to the separate admission into the U.N. by the two Koreas on the grounds that this will perpetuate the division of Korea and obstruct its reunification. But its recent overture calling for the two Koreas to share one seat in the 159-member United Nations has been virtually dismissed by Seoul as unreasonable, in contravention of the U.N. Charter.

On the contrary, the parallel membership of the two Koreas is sure to accelerate confidence building and reconciliation, serving the ultimate objective of national unification, as in the cases of East and West Germany, and South and North Yemen.

With or without the consent of the Pyongyang regime to Seoul's U.N. bid, the government is gearing up its diplomatic initiatives to enlist support from U.N. members. Now attention is focused on the attitude of China which has a veto power as a Security Council member. As still a staunch ally of North Korea, China has so far exhibited an equivocal stand over the Korean question.

Pending the outcome of top-level diplomatic contacts reportedly scheduled between Moscow and Beijing, and Beijing and Pyongyang, there is still room, it is hoped, for the North to modify its intransigent position and to accommodate reality.

If the recent No-Gorbachev summit serves to bring the North to its senses, it could reach an agreement with the South on the U.N. question in the course of the prospective inter-Korean premiers' meeting and other related bilateral or international talks to promote reconciliation in and reunification of Korea.

Shipment of Rice to North Korea Postponed

SK2904055991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 29 (YONHAP)—Shipment of 5,000 tons of South Korean rice to North Korea has been postponed from May 7 at the North's request, Yu Sang-yul, who set up the first direct barter deal between South and North Korea, said Monday.

Yu, chairman of Chonji Trading Co., said he had agreed with Pak Kyong-yun, head of the American nationality of Kumkangsan International Trade and Development Corp., the North Korean partner in the deal, to delay shipment April 25 in Tokyo.

Chonji had planned to ship the rice May 7, but Pak asked for a delay, Yu said.

He said the direct barter of South Korean rice for North Korean cement and anthracite would be carried out before the end of May and he would meet Pak again May 2 in Tokyo to discuss details of the deal.

At their last meeting in Tokyo, the two agreed on the sea route for the rice, with the vessels sailing from Mokpo in the South to Najin in the North, he said.

Seoul Wants Early Resumption of Sports Talks

OW2904113291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Chiba, April 29 KYODO—South Korea wants an early resumption of inter-Korean sports talks to explore the possibility of unified teams for the Barcelona Olympics and other major international events, the chief South Korean negotiator for the talks said Monday.

Chang Chung-sik, who is in Chiba, east of Tokyo, to encourage the unified Korean team in the ongoing world table tennis championships, said in an interview that South Korea is ready to resume the talks with North Korea at the drop of a hat because there is little time until next year's olympics.

The talks were suspended in February because of the "Team Spirit" U.S.-South Korean military exercise.

By olympics, Chang, vice president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, means not only the Barcelona summer games but the Albertville Winter Olympics.

As regards the formation of unified teams for the Barcelona Olympics, for which qualifying rounds in various sports are shortly expected, Chang said South and North Korea should enter those preliminary competitions separately, and those athletes who have come out on top in it should represent "Korea."

Chang, who will head June's world youth soccer championships in Portugal in which the two Koreas will form a single team, said he wants to see the unified team emulate its table tennis counterpart on every front.

He also said South Korea has no quarrel about co-hosting next year's Asian table tennis championships, recommended earlier by the Asia Table Tennis Union, adding it is up to the Pyongyang side.

Inter-Korean Fund To Support Soccer Team

SK3004134391 Seoul YONHAP in English 1325 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government decided Tuesday to use 678.87 million won of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund for supporting the formation and management of a single Korean youth soccer team.

The official outlay will be spent for financing tryouts to form the unified team and its participation in the World Youth Soccer Championships slated for June 14-30 in Portugal. The whole process of forming the team and its participation in the championships are expected to cost an aggregate total of 1.85 billion won.

This will be the second time for the government to support the inter-Korean cooperation projects with the official fund. The government offered similar financial support to the single Korean table tennis team now competing in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

The decision came in the 14th meeting of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council chaired by Vice Prime Minister and Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung.

Two Firms Import DPRK Bullion Via Hong Kong

SK0105031091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean companies recently bought North Korean gold bullion from brokers in Hong Kong, government and business sources said Wednesday.

It is the first time gold has been imported from North Korea.

Lucky-Goldstar Co. and Samsung Corp. bought 134.9 kilograms of North Korean bullion for 1,583,000 U.S. dollars in cash through brokers in Hong Kong in March and April, the sources said.

Lucky-Goldstar, parent firm of the Lucky-Goldstar Group, imported 24.4 kilograms of gold on March 4 and resold the bars to the Lucky Metal Co.

Samsung, trading arm of the Samsung Group, imported 110.5 kilograms of gold in March and April, paying between 9 million won and 10 million won (12,414 dollars to 13,793 dollars) per kilogram.

Most of Samsung's bullion was resold to affiliates, but some was put on the Korean gold market.

Spokesman: Firm Exports Diesel Oil to DPRK

SK2704011191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The government Thursday approved Lucky-Goldstar Company's export of diesel oil to North Korea amounting to 30,000 barrels worth $1.4 million.

The high sulfur diesel oil left Yosu Thursday. The Oxalis Azalea of Panama carrying the oil will arrive in Nampo in the North today via Dalian City of China, a Unification Board spokesman said.

U.S. Negotiations on Burden Sharing Planned

SK0205025091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will start negotiations on a memorandum of understanding on Korea's multibillion-dollar next-generation fighter program and on defense burden sharing next week, Korean defense officials said Thursday.

U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Carl Ford, deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, will arrive May 10 to discuss signing a memorandum of understanding on the Korea fighter program with Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku.

South Korea will listen to the U.S. response to its change of fighter type from the Mcdonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet to the General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon. Yi announced selection of the F-16 in late March, reversing an earlier decision in favor of the F/A-18 for reasons of cost and a better chance of technology transfer. The Defense Ministry sent a draft memorandum of understanding to the U.S. Defense Department in April for review.

The U.S. Government was reportedly reluctant to the change in plane for the 5.2 billion-U.S.-dollar Korea fighter program.

In a letter to Yi on Jan. 25, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said: "If you reopen the competition for other than an off-the-shelf buy, you can expect this will raise significant questions and concerns with our Congress. Responding to these concerns would likely create further costly delays that we both would prefer to avoid."

The South Korean Government chose to buy F/A-18 Hornets from MacDonnell Douglas Corp. in December 1989, but changed its mind in March in favor of F-16 Fighting Falcons of General Dynamics. Of the 120 fighters to be procured under the KFP, 12 will be off the shelf, 36 assembled from U.S.-built kits and the remaining 72 produced here with Korean- and U.S.-made parts and components.

H. Allen Holmes, U.S. ambassador-at-large for burden sharing, will arrive Monday to get the Korean Government's views on a U.S. draft accord on defense burden sharing. He will hold talks with Vice Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae and Assistant Defense Minister for Policy Affairs Kim Tong-chin on May 9-10.

Defense officials of the two allies will also seek ways to jointly cope with North Korea's development of nuclear arms and a further cut of American troops stationed in South Korea, and will discuss early signing of the Wartime Host Nation Support (WHNS).

Each side may have a different opinion regarding the burden sharing as Korea, which gave 500 million dollars in cash support to the multinational forces in the Gulf war, finds it difficult to increase its share next year, the defense officials said.

During the 22nd security consultative meeting at the Pentagon last November, it was agreed to gradually expand Korea's share of the defense burden for joint security of the Korean peninsula.

As for the phased reduction of American troops in South Korea, Korean officials are likely to suggest no cutback until 1995. The allies agreed in the last security consultative meeting that Korea would make suggestions regarding a second-phase scaledown of U.S. forces from 1993.

The two governments will hold a policy review subcommittee meeting in Washington June 13 on arrangements for the 23rd security meeting, which is to be held in Seoul in late November.

Agricultural-Fishery Imports From U.S. Viewed

SK2804013091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Amidst ever toughening U.S. pressure to open the domestic agricultural and fishery market, Korea's dependent ratio on the United States for imports of such products is rising.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries said yesterday that Korea's imports of agro, forestry and fishery products from the American country amounted to $3,764.9 million in 1990, accounting for 65.1 percent of its total imports standing at $5,789 million.

Meanwhile, the nation's exports of agro, forestry and fishery goods to the United States came to $199 million last year, representing a mere 6.8 percent of its total imports of $2,920 million.

The heavy dependency on the United States is feared to have ill effects on the domestic supply and demand control of agricultural products, analysts here say.

In line with this, the Korean government should exert all-out efforts to diversify its import sources of agro, forestry, and fishery products, they say.

In particular, Korea has relied upon the United States for more than 70 percent of its imports of corn, wheat, and soy bean.

Imports of corn from the United States amounted to $720.6 million in 1990, accounting for 86.1 percent of the total imports standing at $836.5 million.

The comparable portion was 72.96 percent ($306 million) for wheat, and 83.4 percent ($210.4 million) for soy beans.

The United States also secured a 40.6 percent share of the nation's total imports of lumber which reached $990.4 million in 1990.

In the field of fishery products, imports of fresh fish came to $48.5 million (62.1 percent of the total), and those of frozen cod amounted to $27 million (93.9 percent), the ministry said.

The comparable import dependent ratio was 78.3 percent for fillet, 77.6 percent for frozen herring, 32.8 percent for confectionery, and 76.8 percent for cigarettes.

U.S.-Soviet Nuclear Weapons Talks Said Held

SK0205045091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0419 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States and the Soviet Union are having secret talks on removing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea to prevent a nuclear buildup in North Korea, the Japanese daily NIHON KEIZAI reported Thursday.

High-ranking diplomatic and defense officials of the two superpowers have met several times for the talks since Spring 1990 and direct contact between the United States and North Korea may be realized with the Soviet Union sitting in if progress is made in the U.S.-Soviet encounter, the paper said.

The officials met at least twice last fall, followed by another meeting this year, the daily reported.

Quoting a well-informed Japanese Government source, it said the two countries initiated the talks because of the increasing possibility that Pyongyang can develop nuclear weapons within the next two or three years.

If nothing were done, the Soviet Union and China, North Korea's staunch allies, would dramatically lose military leverage over president Kim Il-song and South Korea might develop its own nuclear arsenal to match North Korea's, the paper said.

The superpowers agree Pyongyang may lose its current stability under Kim once the 79-year-old president dies and fear the subsequent political confusion might touch off a volatile confrontation on the Korean peninsula, NIHON KEIZAI said.

The Japanese Defense Agency predicts North Korea's nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, will be capable of producing enough plutonium to make one atomic bomb by late 1993 and a dramatic increase in production capacity is possible by late 1994 at the latest.

The agency believes the United States has approximately 1,000 small, tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea, according to the daily.

There are 43,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

North Korea signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1985 but is yet to sign the nuclear safeguards accord and open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Pyongyang stands firm in its claim that it is not aiming at production of nuclear bombs, and says the United States must withdraw its arsenal from the South before enforcing international inspections.

Moscow-Washington negotiations are based on post-cold war developments, including gradual reduction of U.S. military bases overseas, but China and the United States also share common fears about North Korea's nuclear buildup.

Chinese Premier Li Peng, in a recent meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, explicitly said he was hoping against any military confrontation on the Korean peninsula.

The chances of North Korea signing the safeguards accord are uncertain even if U.S. troops remove their nuclear weapons from South Korea, the paper said, since the United States will still have a naval nuclear capability.

It is questionable whether Washington can guarantee that it won't use nuclear weapons, the paper added.

Soviet Reaction to Consultation Issue of Concern

SK2704021491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 91 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Sense of Balance"]

[Text] TOKYO (Yonhap)—Officials of the South Korean Foreign Ministry appear to be concerned about how the Soviets will react to the reported agreement to form a regular channel of policy consultation among the governments of three countries, South Korea, Japan and the United States.

A high-ranking official accompanying Foreign Minister Yi Sang-o repeatedly said that the agreement reached here Thursday, between Yi and his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama, is of an "unofficial nature."

The official indicated that the accord was made mainly to counter the Soviet-proposed Seoul-Moscow neighborhood treaty.

"We felt the need to settle diplomatic issues with our allies since we are talking about the conclusion of a friendship treaty between the Republic of Korea and the Soviet Union," the official said.

He said, "We felt somewhat nervous as we are coming close to the Soviets."

The Seoul government had been reluctant to accept the Japanese government's offer to set up a channel of regular policy consultation, but changed its mind as a result of the visit to Cheju by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, another Seoul official said.

Seoul has initially shown a cautious approach to the Soviet-proposed friendship treaty, but is now ready to sign it provided that it is devoid of military aspects.

USSR 'Willing' To Transfer Fighter Technology

SK0105095091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union is willing to give South Korea the technology to produce fighter planes and helicopters, Valeriy Nazarov, president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and industry representation in South Korea, said Wednesday.

Nazarov made the remarks in a news conference just before opening the "Soviet Advanced Technologies and Export Goods Exhibition" at the Korea exhibition center in southern Seoul.

George Kouznetsov [name as received], director of exhibitions for the Soviet Expo Center, said that the Soviet Union was poised to respond actively if Korean firms paid attention to Soviet-made aircraft and asked for technology transfers.

Negotiations had begun with two Korean conglomerates, Daewoo and Samsung, on transferring technology to make aircraft, helicopters and parts, Kouznetsov said.

He said 42 Soviet foreign trade organizations and the Ulan-Ude Aviation Industry Association of the Soviet Union are taking part in the trade show and talking with Korean buyers.

Military Attaches Exchange With USSR Viewed

SK3004024791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed to exchange military attaches headed by a colonel, Defense Ministry officials said Tuesday.

The government is seeking the Kremlin's agrement to the appointment of Korean military attaches and the Soviet Union is expected to take the same procedure in May, the officials said.

Seoul To Post Information Attaches in USSR

SK3004122691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1209 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to post information attaches to its diplomatic missions based in the Soviet Union and other East-bloc European countries.

A report filed by the Information Ministry with the National Assembly Culture-Information Committee said the government would assign an information attache to the Soviet Union in May. Information officers will also be sent to Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, according to the report.

The government stationed an information attache in Hungary last June.

The government has also decided to dispatch a touring public relations team to the Soviet Union, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland in coming October-November with a view to staging a publicity drive in the socialist bloc.

French Prime Minister Makes Official Visit

SK0105132991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1315 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard arrived here Wednesday aboard a special plane for a three-day official visit at the invitation of South Korean Prime Minister No Chae-pong.

During his stay in Seoul until May 3, he is to hold talks with his South Korean counterpart No to discuss ways to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries as well as between South Korea and the European Community (EC).

During his talks with No, Rocard is expected to ask for French participation in the planned construction of a high-speed railway between Seoul and Pusan.

He is also scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u and National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, and have a luncheon meeting with heads of the South Korean major economic associations.

French premier will have an inspection tour of the semiconductor research institute of Seoul National University and deliver a lecture on Korea-France relations.

Rocard is accompanied by 17 other French officials.

Lobbies for Railway Project

SK0205060491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 2 May 91 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said Thursday he hoped a 7 billion-U.S.-dollar contract to construct a high-speed railway in South Korea would be awarded to France, Korean officials said.

In talks with Korean Prime Minister No Chae-pong, Rocard said TGV [Tres Grande Vitesse] and other French companies with up-to-date technologies were hoping to take part in various projects in South Korea.

TGV is competing with Japan's Shinkansen and Germany's ICE [expansion unknown] for the multibillion-dollar contract to build an electric railway between Seoul with the southeastern port of Pusan.

Rocard arrived Wednesday from New Zealand at No's invitation, accompanied by a 17-member official entourage that includes Roger Fauroux, industries and land development minister. He was to pay a call on President No Tae-u and tour Seoul National University's semiconductor research institute Thursday afternoon. Later in the day, he was to address a meeting of the university faculty and students on the campus.

The two prime ministers agreed to upgrade bilateral cooperation , with special emphasis on economic relations and trade, and promised mutual cooperation in the international arena, the officials said.

No explained Seoul's northern policy, under which it strives to improve relations with communist nations, and Rocard expressed keen interest in the development of relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union, particularly the Seoul-Moscow summit on April 20.

No told Rocard that northern policy was being pursued in close consultation and cooperation with France and other friendly nations and in a way conducive to easing tension on the Korean peninsula and achieving unification of the nation.

When No explained Seoul's efforts to join the United Nations this year and thanked Rocard for the French support in various international forums, Rocard promised "all-out" support for Seoul's bid for U.N. membership and said South Korea's presence in the world body was natural.

No briefed Rocard on Seoul's policy of seeking peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula through confidence-building measures and early resumption of the stalled inter-Korean prime ministers' talks. Rocard said his government supported these efforts.

Rocard affirmed that European integration in 1993 would help strengthen the new world trade order and said he would positively support the consolidation of Seoul-EC ties.

Rocard explained the diplomatic efforts by Paris to settle regional disputes in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and No said he highly estimated such efforts.

Meets With President No Tae-u

SK0205094791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0927 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u met Thursday with visiting French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, who paid a courtesy call on him to exchange views on ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

During a luncheon meeting at the presidential office, No and Rocard expressed satisfaction with remarkable improvement in mutual relations since No's visit to France in November 1989, a presidential spokesman said.

On South Korea's U.N. membership, he was quoted as saying it was natural for South Korea to enter the United Nations and the French Government would fully support the South Korean efforts.

When French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas recently visited Beijing, the Chinese authorities informed him that sharing a single U.N. seat with North Korea fell short of realization and South and North Korea had better resolve the issue positively through direct dialogues by themselves, Rocard told No.

Asking for the South Korean Government's sincere consideration for giving France a chance to participate in big Korean projects, he said France was ready to meet the South Korean requirements, including the transfer of technology, economical efficiency and financing, in the construction of a high-speed railway from Seoul to Pusan, the official told reporters.

No said the government would objectively select the most suitable contractor, taking into consideration various factors like practicability and technology transfer.

No also hoped for early realization of the visit by French President Francois Mitterrand to Seoul, the official added.

Second Container Service to China Delayed

SK3004064091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—Opening of a second container service between South Korea and China may be delayed one month, until early June, Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) officials and the Kyunghan Shipping Co., a Korean-Chinese joint venture that will operate the container service, said Tuesday.

Kyunghan, a 50-50 joint venture between Heung-a Shipping Co. and the state-run China Ocean Shipping Co. (COSCO), planned to begin regular container services between the Korean ports of Pusan and Inchon and China's Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao and Dalian on May 1.

The start may be postponed by one month due to difficulties in acquiring container vessels, the KMPA officials said.

Kyunghan said it plans to use four 125-450 TEU (20-foot equivalent unit) container vessels on four routes with three sailings a month on each route.

Two 125-TEU vessels will sail the Pusan-Inchon-Shanghai and Pusan-Inchon-Dalian routes, a 277-TEU vessel will be put on the Pusan-Inchon-Qingdao route and a 443-TEU vessel on the Pusan-Inchon- Tianjin route, it said.

The first container service between the two countries began in June 1989. Sinokor Ltd., a joint venture between the Dongnama Shipping Co. and the China National Foreign Trade Transportation Corp., runs a regular container service to Pusan, Inchon, Shanghai , Tianjin and Dalian.

Meanwhile, the Weidong Ferry Co., jointly established by six Korean shipping firms, including Yukong Line, and the Weihai Joint Stock Shipping Co. and another Chinese firm, opened a car ferry service between Inchon and Weihai in September last year.

Former Prime Minister Leaves for Middle East

SK2704061491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—The government on Friday dispatched former Primer Minister Kang Yong-hun to six Mideast countries as President No Tae-u's envoy to discuss ways of promoting friendly ties between Korea and those countries, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Kang will tour Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Egypt until May 20. While in the Mideast, he will also explain the development on the Korean peninsula and South Korean Government's efforts for peaceful unification of his divided country, the ministry said.

Canada To Cooperate in Trade Protection Items

SK0105031591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0240 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Canada have agreed to cooperate in protecting some items, such as Korean rice and Canadian milk, from market opening pressure in the Uruguay Round trade talks, but to minimize the number.

Given Korea's agriculture and food security, rice and some other items considered politically and economically sensitive just cannot be opened, said Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so when he met with Canadian Industry, Science and Technology Minister Michael Wilson in Ottawa Monday.

Wilson said Canada found it difficult to open its milk market because of domestic oversupply.

The two countries agreed to collaborate in advancing to the Middle East and Soviet Far East and to strengthen bilateral economic tie-ups centering on the aerospace and automobile industries.

Wilson asked Korea to lift import restrictions and reduce tarriff on Canadian barely, wheat, alfalfa and rape seed.

He also asked Korea to import his country's frozen gray mullet and lift a ban on the number of Canadian bank branches allowed to operate in Seoul.

Korea demanded Canada streamline its duty policy because it may discriminate against Korean companies in Canada as tarriff reimbursement gets repealed following the free trade agreement between the United States and Canada.

Imposition of anti-dumping duties would become another trade barrier, Korea said.

Yi also asked Wilson to decide at the soonest whether Canada will particiate in the '93 Taejon international exposition in Korea.

Sweden Reportedly To Close Embassy in DPRK

SK0105042391 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 1 May 91

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] Japan's RADIO PRESS reported that Sweden, which is the only Western country to have a resident embassy in Pyongyang, is planning to close its embassy in North Korea.

Yesterday, quoting the Yugoslavian Government-run news agency TANJUG, which was sent from Stockholm, RADIO PRESS revealed that the reason Sweden is closing its embassy in North Korea is that North Korea is continuing to refuse paying its debt.

DP Leader on Bid To Introduce Cabinet System

SK2704013491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Rep. Yi Ki-taek, president of the minor opposition Democratic Party [DP], blasted the government for attempting to introduce a parliamentary cabinet system in a bid to perpetuate its stay in power despite President No Tae-u's promise to the people ruling out the adoption of such a system.

In a meeting with foreign correspondents here at the Press Center yesterday he attributed present political instability to last year's three party merger which he alleged was conducted for the purpose of introducing the cabinet system.

He also renewed his criticism of Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition New Democratic Union, for showing "sympathy" with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's move to adopt the new power system.

Yi reiterated his party's determination to stop the two parties from adopting the parliamentary cabinet system and monopolizing politics, saying the people's distrust of the two parties has been indisputably shown in various polls.

Touching upon the Cheju summit between Presidents No and Gorbachev, he blamed the government for lacking principle in pursuing the northern policy as seen in the wavering attitude regarding the amity treaty proposed by Gorbachev.

Stressing the need for the young generation to take a leading role in unification, he revealed that his party will push ahead with exchanges of young people between South and North Korea this year.

No Tae-u Appoints New Presidential Secretary

SK0205010891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 May 91 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday appointed An Kyo-tok, president of the Agriculture and Fisheries Marketing Corp., senior presidential secretary for petitions and information. An, 57, succeeds Yi Sang-yon, who became home minister last Saturday.

A retired Army colonel, An served as a lawmaker of the previous ruling Democratic Justice Party from 1981 to 1985. He also served as president of Jungwoo Development Co. and the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Corp.

He graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1955. His classmates include President No and former President Chon Tu-hwan.

Unionists, Students Mark May Day With Rallies

SK0205073991 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 2 May 91 p 2

[Text] An estimated 100,000 trade unionists, despite government warnings, yesterday took part in the celebration of the 102nd anniversary of May Day, an event that has long been banned in Korea.

The workers walked off the job in protest against what they called the government's oppression of the "democratic" labor movement.

In Korea, March 10 has been Labor Day since 1958. The government has refused to change the date to May 1, which was designated as Law Day 22 years ago. On other fronts, progressive labor unionists joined forces with student activists, dissident leaders and opposition politicians in mass rallies for joint antigovernment struggles.

In the capital, more than 30,000 workers, students and citizens held a ceremony for May Day in a mass rally as planned at Yonsei University in Seoul yesterday afternoon.

After the rally that lasted until late in the evening, participants attempted to march toward City Hall square. Some 12,000 riot police deployed around the campus blocked them at the school entrance with volleys of tear gas and water cannons.

Sporadic clashes with police occurred until late at night in several spots in the capital as the labor activists and college students staged hit-and-run demonstrations.

Yesterday's rally was organized by an alliance of 44 labor, political, student and dissident groups, which was formed recently to launch a nationwide protest against the last week's bludgeoning to death of a Seoul student by riot police during a street demonstration.

In Kwangju, more than 10,000 workers and students held 10 protest rallies on university campuses and in the downtown streets.

The protestors demanded the immediate resignation of the incumbent government of President No Tae-u and denounced the government for the brutal killing of the student.

In Pusan, some 7,000 workers, expelled teachers and students clashed with riot police on five university campuses and in the streets. The protestors threw firebombs and rocks at riot police who fought back with tear gas and truncheons. Violent rallies were also reported in Chunchon, Kangwon-to, with 2,000 students and dissidents participating in street rallies.

Further Reaction to Student Demonstrator's Death

Education Minister Makes Appeal

SK2904020991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 29 (YONHAP)—Education Minister Yun Hyong-sop appealed to students across the country Sunday to return to their classrooms and let the government deal with the police killing of a colleague.

"The government has already found out the truth about this incident, replaced the cabinet minister concerned, and taken legal actions against those involved...now it is time for the students to return to their classrooms and leave other matters to the government. It is in their interest and society's," Yun said in a statement on the death of Kang Kyong-tae, a Myongji University freshman.

"As the education minister, I can't suppress sorrow for the tragic incident that occurred during a demonstration. I cannot express enough my condolences to the parents and relatives...[no end quotation mark as received]

"In a democratic political situation like today's, illegal demonstrations and chronic violence should be uprooted. The vicious cycle of violence for violence should be put to an end, for violence produces only losers, and no winners.

"The police should avoid another unfortunate incident such as this by taking a more discreet attitude toward student demonstrations," the minister said.

Five combat policemen have been arrested and three senior officers suspended for their responsibility for the student's death.

'Violent' Student Protests Erupt

SK0205004991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 May 91 p 3

[Text] Student protests are flaring despite a series of government's steps designed to quench popular fury over the clubbing to death by riot police last week of a Seoul college student.

In this week's second major nationwide antigovernment protest, tens of thousands of students yesterday held rallies across the country demanding the "ouster of the President No Tae-u regime."

Violent clashes erupted again between firebomb-hurling students and tear gas-firing riot police after the students tried in vain to stage street marches.

Fierce street demonstrations were reported in Pusan, Taegu and Kwangju.

Yesterday's student rallies were also attended by thousands of workers who, in defiance of the authorities' warning, walked off their jobs in the day to observe the May Day.

According to the Chonnohyop, the nationwide organization of labor activists, nearly 100,000 workers across the country failed to report to work yesterday in compliance with its call for a "one-day nationwide strike" to mark May Day.

The Labor Ministry on the other hand said that only about 5,000 workers of five companies boycotted work in the day.

But authorities worried that the massive participation by workers in yesterday's students' rallies might indicate the restoration of the much-feared "campus-workplace" alliance against the government.

Again, the Yonsei University campus where the body of the late Kang Kyong-tae is being kept was the site of the day's largest and most violent antigovernment protests.

More than 30,000 students and workers held a rally at the Yonsei campus, adopting a resolution vowing to struggle to topple the incumbent government. During the two-hour rally, also attended by dissident leaders, they decided to hold a "peaceful march" in Seoul Saturday.

After the rally which ended at 7 p.m., thousands of students who tried to take to the streets clashed with riot troopers who fired tear gas shells. Hundreds of stone-hurling students advanced to the streets in Shinchon, western Seoul, paralyzing traffic in the area.

Later in the night, hundreds of students bypassed police blockade in Shinchon area to stage violent protests in more than a dozen places in the capital city. Some of them gathered in the Myongdong Cathedral and confronted the police forces till midnight.

Kang, a freshman of the Seoul's Myongji University, was killed by steel pipe-wielding riot policemen at a demonstration site near his campus last Friday afternoon.

Kang's death helped ignite long-dormant antigovernment sentiment among college students as well as many dissidents and ordinary citizens.

Trying with little success so far to placate popular anger, President No replaced Home Minister An Ung-mo with a moderate Yi Sang-yon and repeatedly expressed his regret over the incident.

The incident along with a series of scandals has also provided opposition political parties with an opportunity to launch an offensive against the powerful ruling party.

The government apparently hopes that the popular fury over the college student's death might calm down as days go by.

Rather, the protests are expected to mount until the funeral service for Kang is held.

The students reportedly hope to hold the service May 8, one day before the first anniversary of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

Hundreds of students stood guard around the Yonsei University Hospital mortuary.

In Kwangju, where a college coed attempted a self-immolation suicide Monday to protest Kang's death, a massive rally attended by over 10,000 students and citizens was held.

President No Tae-u Apologizes

SK0205142091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1404 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Thursday that he was lamenting over the bludgeoning death of Kang Kyong-tae, a freshman of Myonggi University, a presidential aide said.

During his weekly meeting with ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae, No said, "Kang's death is a heartbreaking incident and I am very sorry for causing people to feel sorrow and pain."

He also made it clear that his government would improve the method of operating police force for the prevention of the recurrence of the incident, said senior Presidential Secretary for Political Affairs Son Chu-hwan who attended the meeting.

Urging the student activists not to resort to extreme actions such as self-immolation, No said, "Now is the time for the entire people to make earnest efforts to prevent the recurrence of the incident."

Protests Continue for Sixth Day

SK0205035291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—Some 25,000 radical students from 80 universities and colleges were on the march in Seoul and other large cities, holding protest rallies and street demonstrations for the sixth consecutive day.

The protests, some without firebombs under the nonviolent policy of the National Council of Student Representatives, went on late into the night Wednesday, bringing together students and dissident workers to mark the 102nd international labor day.

In the capital, some 20,000 students, workers and dissidents called for "the ouster of the President No Tae-u regime" at Yonsei University in western Seoul, where the body of the 20-year-old student killed last Friday awaits burial in the university hospital's morgue.

Some 3,000 demonstrators who reached downtown Seoul after making it off the heavily-guarded campus, played hide-and-seek with riot police, rushing into alleys when they were chased and then reappearing and chanting "Down with the government" and "Step down, No Tae-u."

Stoking the fury of protesters was a second attempted self-immolation. A student at Andong University on Wednesday followed the example of a Chonnam National University student who set herself on ablaze on Monday.

In another development, after 100 professors at Hanshin University and Kyungnam National University launched sit-in protests Tuesday, 320 others in other schools followed suit with definite or indefinite sit-in protests on their campuses Wednesday and Thursday.

Some 700 professors at Chonnam National University made a statement Wednesday denouncing the government for failing to push ahead with its timetable for democracy, demanding it disband the plainclothed riot policemen and bring the truth to light about the beating death of the freshman.

A similar hunger strike is also being staged by some 30 Roman Catholic Clergymen from Chonju, North Cholla Province.

In the second attempted self-immolation since Kang died, Kim Yong-kyon, 20, a sophomore of Andong university in North Kyongsang Province, set himself on fire Thursday. He suffered third degree burns over his entire body and was hospitalized at Kyungpook National University hospital in a critical but stable condition.

Pak Sung-hui, a sophomore at Chonnam National University in South Cholla Province who set herself ablaze Monday, is not expected to live though she has managed to communicate with her family through signs.

Plain-Clothes Unit Breakup Urged

SK0205011291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 May 91 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] wants to dissolve the so-called "Paekkoldan" or plainclothes riot police squads in an attempt to defuse the political crisis stemming from the beating to death of a college student by riot policemen, a senior party official said yesterday.

"I have already asked new Minister of Home Affairs Yi Sang-yon to disband the Paekkoldan" whose main job is to catch protesters, DLP floor leader Kim Chong-ho told reporters.

Five policemen who allegedly belong to the Paekkoldan (Skeleton Corps) were arrested for bludgeoning to death Kang Kyong-tae, a Myungji University freshman.

In a related development, ruling party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam was quoted as telling a meeting of party officials in the morning that the way police cope with demonstrations should be changed to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

He accused opposition leader Kim Tae-chung's New Democratic Union [NDU] of "exploiting" the tragic death politically, chief party spokesman Pak Hui-tae said.

The largest opposition NDU Tuesday submitted for approval to the National Assembly a resolution calling for an end to the so-called "heavy-handed rule."

The party is demanding that president No Tae-u make a public apology for the brutal police killing of the student, and Prime Minister No Chae-pong and all cabinet ministers step down.

In the ruling party's meeting, some officials including Reps. Choe Wun-chi and Hwang Nak-chu argued that peaceful demonstrations should be encouraged, the spokesman said.

Instead, those staging illegal, violent demonstrations should be punished sternly, they stressed.

In a session of the National Assembly Home Affairs Committee late yesterday, opposition legislators reiterated their call for the disbandment of the hated plainclothes policemen who are martial arts experts who pursue and arrest protesters.

Two other demonstrating students recently lost an eye each.

The home minister, however, rejected the opposition demand for the dissolution of the Paekkoldan.

"It seems inevitable for the government to keep the plainclothes police for apprehending criminals at a time when demonstrations are becoming more and more violent," he said.

He said the riot policemen could change their uniform.

He said 9,660 antigovernment and other protests occurred on 332 days throughout last year. Participants were tallied at some 1.9 million.

The NDU, meanwhile, yesterday decided to soon submit to the National Assembly an amendment to the laws governing riot police which would ban the mobilization of riot police to disperse demonstrators.

The decision came in a meeting of key party officials, a party spokesman said.

New Minister of Home Affairs Yi, meantime, told a parliamentary panel Tuesday that 66 units of riot policemen currently mobilized to disperse protesters would be replaced by policemen who do the job to substitute for military service by the end of June.

Riot police should not have been mobilized to disperse demonstrators, he said.

No Tae-u on Instruction To Control Construction

SK0105062291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u instructed economic ministers to delay construction of government office buildings Wednesday and stop issuing construction permits for private buildings that exceed a certain size until the construction market cools down.

No told them to take all possible measures against business groups that failed to dispose of non-essential land, including tightening bank credit.

The government ordered firms to sell their non-essential land in May last year, but many have not responded.

Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and 10 economic ministers attended the meeting at the presidential office of Chongwadae.

No also instructed Environment Minister Kwon I-hyok to test the water quality in reservoirs across the country and check the environmental situation at industrial sites and take necessary measures.

The president directed that Kwon and Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol make an early settlement with Wonjin Rayon Co. and establish middle- and long-term plans to improve working conditions in factories in the country.

He also asked the ministers to exert utmost efforts so that wage negotiations are settled peacefully at reasonable levels.

No Tae-u on Comments Further

SK0205010491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 May 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday the government will take punitive steps against conglomerates which do not dispose of their real estate held for nonbusiness purposes.

The President also called for curbs on construction activities to fight runaway inflation.

No directed Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu and other economic ministers to employ all possible means to have businesses comply with the government's real estate policies, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong said.

Steps under consideration include a more rigorous management of bank loans, according to Yi.

Admist public outcries over spiraling land and housing prices, the government announced a set of real estate policies about a year ago, urging large business firms to sell their real estate holdings not essential to their business activities.

"Businesses should respect the rules set by the government," No was quoted as saying, expressing regret that some business firms have yet to comply with the government policies.

The President called the economic ministers' meeting to discuss steps to secure economic stability without being affected by the current difficult situation on campuses and in political circles, the spokesman said.

No ordered the economic ministers to try to calm the present trend of excessive construction activities, while expressing concern that they might serve as a push factor for commodity prices.

He suggested that the government postpone the construction of public office buildings and refrain from issuing permits for the building of large houses and stores.

On the environmental issue, the President instructed Environment Minister Kwon I-hyok to again check river water quality and environmental conditions at industrial complexes throughout the nation.

He asked the environment minister and Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol to urge businesses to step up efforts to eliminate "hazardous working conditions."

Noting that labor-management negotiations over wage hikes start this month in most businesses, No called for steps to head off labor disputes and to ensure a harmonious settlement of the negotiations.

He also instructed the economic ministers to faithfully carry out measures to help strengthen the competitiveness of manufacturing sectors and to map out comprehensive plans for restructuring the rural economy.

Later in the day, No met Law Day prize winners and legal experts to exchange views on current campus disturbances over the death of a college protester.

"It was really tragic and unfortunate that a student was victimized during a collision between student demonstrators and riot police," No was quoted as saying.

"Such an incident would not have happened if everyone involved had exercised restraint on the basis of respect for law and order," he said.

No went on to say that the government would not tolerate "leftist elements" resorting to violent means to overthrow the nation's liberal democracy.

No Tae-u Addresses Scientific Issues, Policy

SK3004072091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0616 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u vowed Tuesday to bring up to par South Korea's industrial research and development to achieve technological independence.

"The biggest flaw in the South Korean economy is neglected investment in industrial research and development, and the biggest problem is the country's lack of original skills," No told a meeting of science reporters.

No called in his speech for private companies and all economic sectors to show interest in aiding scientific progress and playing mentor to field experts in order to support economic advancement.

The government would play its part by providing financial and material support, information and personnel, the president said.

Presenting specifics, No said he planned to set up a science technology university in Kwangju and increase the freshmen quotas at Korea's leading engineering colleges by 4,000 a year from next year.

No picked telecommunications, new materials, bioengineering, and marine, aviation and space sciences as key fields for concentrated research as well as the environment, transportation and nuclear science.

The government would set up an advisory committee in May to orchestrate technology development policies, he said.

No Urges Prosecution To Fight Drug Syndicates

SK2604080091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u instructed the prosecution Friday to divert all its efforts to fighting drug syndicates.

No, after being briefed by Public Prosecutor General Chong Ku-yong on drug-related crimes, ordered the police force and the Health and Social Affairs Ministry to form an organic cooperative system with the prosecution so they can begin an intensive and continuous campaign to shatter drug rings.

The prosecution should perceive the war against drugs as the most important part of the war against crime that he proclaimed last year, No said, the prosecution should not just crack down on drug addicts, but on dealers and suppliers too.

Also at the briefing were Home Affairs Minister An Ung-mo, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam, Health and Social Affairs Minister Kim Chong-su and National Police head Yi Chong-kuk.

It was a big problem that some rich men who habitually took drugs were arrested by the police, No said, adding that he deplored drug abuse by youths, housekeepers, workers and farmers.

Automobile Workers Return to Daewoo Plant

SK2904062091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Inchon, South Korea, April 29 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Motor Co. resumed production Monday 13 days after workers walked off the job to protest the arrest of union officials, but there was lingering tension as some union members refuse to work and police were stationed around the factory.

Almost 90 percent of the day shift's 5,325 workers clocked on and seven car production lines were operating normally after a cleanup and a morning meeting at Daewoo's automobile plant in Inchon, a port west of Seoul.

Some 300 workers from the car body division gathered in front of the factory gate at 9:50 A.M. to discuss what to do, and 50 shop stewards and union leaders on the police arrest list did not report for work.

About nine companies of riot police, some 1,100 men, are posted at the factory's four gates in case they are needed.

Daewoo said in a staement released around noon that it would resume pay negotiations as soon as output is stabilized, and wages for the period of the strike would be based on the ruling of the Inchon local district labor committee, but it also warned it would take stern steps against any actions that violated the law or company regulations.

Demands for the company to pay strike pay often make it difficult for management and labor to reach an agreement even after the main conflict is solved.

The Daewoo group affiliate was hit by violent demonstrations and workers downed tools to protest the arrest of six union officials April 8. The company responded with a lockout May 17.

Union Vice President Choe Yong-chu, 31, and other union officials were detained by police while leading a protest over the arrest of union President Yi On-ku, 29. Yi was arrested for attending a meeting of big business unions.

The company said the walkout cost it 97.1 billion won (133.93 million U.S. dollars) as a result of lost production of 12,950 trucks and cars.

Mining, Manufacturing Sectors Show Increases

SK2704235291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] The mining and manufacturing sector in Korea enjoyed an 8.6 percent increase in production and an 11.2 percent rise in shipments last year mainly thanks to brisk facility investments and a construction boom, the National Statistical Office [NSO] said yesterday.

The figures compare with a 2.7 percent production growth and a 4.2 percent shipment expansion in 1989.

Inventories in the industrial sector rose 17.3 percent in 1990, compared with a 17.9 percent increase the previous year, indicating an apparent recovery of the Korean economy, NSO said.

The heavy and chemical industries, helped by a good performance in transportation equipments, electric and electronics, industrial compounds and steel products, saw their output and shipments growing 12.3 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively, last year, according to the NSO report.

Light industry, however, had a 2.3 percent output hike and a 2.9 percent shipment increase in 1990.

The fourth quarter of last year registered a 7.4 percent production increase and a 10.6 percent shipment rise, both below yearly growth rates.

The comparable output figures were 7.9 percent in the first quarter, 9.4 percent in the second and 9.5 percent in the third quarter, while the shipment growth rates were 9.5 percent in the first, 10.7 percent in second and 13.6 percent in the third quarter of last year.

The comparable figures for inventories were 18.1 percent in the first quarter, 24.4 percent in the second, 15.6 percent in the third and 12.2 percent in the final quarter of 1990, according to the report.

By sector, transportation equipments marked a 23.2 percent output growth last year, followed by industrial compounds (20.4 percent), rubber products (13.0 percent) and steel products (12.2 percent).

In shipments, transportation equipments also made the biggest expansion last year with 24.8 percent, followed by industrial compounds (21.8 percent), glass and glass products (17.0 percent) and steel products (15.5 percent).

Printing and publication saw its production and shipments expanding 7.4 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, but textiles, clothing and other manufacturing showed setbacks.

All cities and provinces, except Kangwon-to, produced better output performances last year mainly due to strong domestic demands.

Seoul, Pusan and Taegu recovered from negative production growth in 1989 to plus expansion last year.

Kwangju topped the output expansion rate list with 26.3 percent last year, followed by Cheju (20.2 percent), Kyongsangpuk-to (16.1 percent), Chollanam-to (13.0 percent), Chungchongpuk-to (12.3 percent), Kyonggi-to (11.4 percent), Kyongsangnam-to (10.0 percent) and Inchon (8.8 percent).

The average production growth rate in cities and provinces stood at 8.6 percent in 1990.

Economy Reportedly Shows Signs of Recovery

SK2904072491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 29 (YONHAP)—The South Korean economy, fueled by strong exports and a rise in industrial output, is showing signs of a recovery, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) reported Monday to the National Assembly.

Industrial output rose 10.3 percent in January-February and exports amounted to 1.92 billion U.S. dollars as of April 24, up 12 percent from the same period last year. Factories were operating at 81.8 percent of capacity.

U.S.-bound exports in the first quarter were off 8.8 percent and Japan-bound shipments down 0.9 percent, but exports to Southeast Asia were up 43.6 percent and to the European Community 38.3 percent.

Imports jumped 25 percent, led by higher oil prices. The current account deficit widened to 3.8 billion dollars in the first quarter, based on a tentative tally.

"The large deficit, compelled by higher energy costs, is no structural problem," an EPB official said. "Stable prices are the major concern, in parallel with manufacturing competitiveness, industrial peace and the response to internationalization."

The official predicted the construction boom would continue for the time being. Construction investment soared 20 percent in the first quarter.

Economic Statistics for First Quarter Released

SK0105100591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0856 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—Steady growth of industrial output, warehouse discharges and consumption forecast a brighter-than-expected economic future for South Korea, according to figures released Wednesday by the National Statistical Office [NSO].

NSO's industrial activity analysis for March and the first quarter showed an 8.2-percent increase in industrial output for the first three months, and warehouse discharges managed to register a 10.3-percent increase.

The numbers compare to 8.3 percent for industrial output and 9.8 percent for warehouse discharges during same period last year.

The leading composite index marked a rise of 0.3 percent, a welcome rebound from a 0.2-percent dip in February.

On the rise, too, was the operating rate of Korea's factories, up from 80.5 percent in the first quarter last year to 80.8 percent this year.

Analysts at the statistical office said the feared slump in construction, machinery and consumption turned out to be exaggerated for the first quarter.

Delayed satellite city apartment sales in March restrained construction permits at a 12.3-percent increase compared to 48.4 percent for the period a year before, they said.

Spillover from last year, however, kept up the construction business boom, spurred on by a 21.2-percent increase in domestic orders in March compared to a year ago.

Consumption rose 6.6 percent and warehouse discharges of consumer goods increased 12.8 percent during the quarter.

March in particular was not a good month, however, with industrial output and warehouse discharge improvement rates falling below par. The figures stopped at 4.4 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, much lower than the quarter's average of 8.2 percent and 10.3 percent.

Unemployment remained steady in March, registering the same 2.7 percent as in March last year.

Consumer Prices Post 11-Year Record Gain

SK3004060591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 30 (YONHAP)—Consumer prices soared 5.4 percent in the first four months of the year, the highest level South Korea has seen in 11 years, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] reported Tuesday.

Consumer prices rose 0.5 percent and wholesale prices 0.2 percent in April from the previous month to make the four-month gain at 5.4 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively, EPB said.

The four-month inflation rate compares with the government's target of 8 percent to 9 percent for 1991.

The Board said it expects not a little difficulty in keeping inflation under 10 percent and called for more powerful measures to stabilize prices.

Price hikes in April were down somewhat compared to 4.9 percent in the previous three months thanks to a stable supply of vegetables and stable prices of crude oil and raw materials on international markets.

The impact of substantial rises in public utility fees and transportation charges in January were already reflected in price rises for previous months and did not affect the April figures much.

Choe Kak-kyu Views Economic Policy, Prospects

SK0105024291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu predicted Tuesday that a recovery in exports would hold South Korea's current account deficit down to 3 billion U.S. dollars this year and that manufacturing competitiveness would be the major economic concern in the remainder of the second quarter.

Meeting with a group of representatives of the trading community, Choe said exports rebounded 12 percent in the first quarter and would create a current account surplus in the second half.

Controlling inflation was another of the nation's urgent economic tasks, he said, promising to do his best to keep it below 10 percent.

The trade sector faced a shortage of manpower, operating funds, real estate and infrastructure as well as high foreign exchange rates of the won against key currencies, so the government would begin to concentrate its investment on priority areas in budgeting the second supplementary government spending, he said.

He said the times no longer allowed such blatant government support for exporting firms as foreign exchange manipulation, and each firm must find its own way to cope with the challenge.

The trade representatives asked for devalution of the Korean won and financing support, smooth distribution of freight and revocation of a plan to increase industrial electricity charges.

Current Account Deficit Increases '260 Percent'

SK0205015891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0128 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea's current account deficit soared over 260 percent in the first quarter to 3.868 billion U.S. dollars and an additional 1 billion dollar deficit was likely for April, the Bank of Korea reported Thursday.

Exports in March reached 5.604 billion dollars, up 4.5 percent from the same month last year, and imports rose to 6.414 billion dollars, up 12.8 percent, for a trade deficit of 810 million dollars, the Central Bank said.

The balance of payments in the non-trade sector sank into the red to the tune of 218 million dollars in March, from a surplus of 25 million dollars in February.

Net transfers recorded a deficit of 93 million dollars on a sharp increase in the flow of money abroad, including payment of Gulf war contributions in March of 35 million dollars, the bank said.

The current account, which includes trade and non-trade sectors and net transfers, recorded a deficit of 1.121 billion dollars in March and 3.868 billion dollars for the first three months, up 261.8 percent from the same period last year.

The central bank said the trade deficit would reach about 1 billion dollars in April and the current account deficit for the first four months was expected to be 5 billion dollars, 2.5 times the 2 billion-dollar deficit expected for the year.

Korea's trade deficit with Japan was a record high 746 million dollars in March, and with the United States the deficit was 240 million dollars.

Trade with the European Community turned from a deficit to a surplus of 52 million dollars.

Steelmakers Increase Overseas Investments

SK2904072591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 29 (YONHAP)—South Korean steelmakers are active in overseas facility investment this year, with 12 steel mills in operation or due as of the end of March, and eight projects under study.

The trend, industry officials said, is mostly aimed at wider access to local markets and higher product value through processing.

Pohang Iron and Steel Co. is to begin the construction of a joint-venture factory with annual production capacity of 360,000 tons of cold rolled sheet in Johore, Malaysia, early next year. The state-run company is also moving to set up a 10,000-ton tin-coated steel sheet factory in Suzhou Province and a container production plant in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Advances into Vietnam in a joint venture with the Sunkyong Group is also eyed.

Pohang is scheduled to complete construction of a coil center with a production capacity of 100,000 tons in Istanbul, Turkey, by the end of the year and others in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Sammi Steel Co. will boost the stainless steel production capacity of a mill in Quebec, Canada, from 80,000 tons to 300,000 tons by 1995 and put 500 million Canadian dollars in it over the next six years. Sammi also has a stake in a new factory of Camborne Industries PLC, Britain, under an expansion project.

Pusan Steel Pipe Corp. plans to build a steel pipe factory with annual capcity of 60,000 tons in Cijulang, Indonesia, and put it into operation early next year.

Hyundai Pipe Co. finished construction of a container production line in Mexico and Tongbu Steel Co. plans to build a zinc-coated steel sheet factory with annual capacity of 100,000 tons.

Korea Steel Pipe Co. will finish construction of a joint-venture steel pipe factory in Saudi Arabia by the end of October.

Trading arms of business groups are also actively investing in steel production lines abroad.

Sunkyong and Daewoo are moving to construct coil centers in Auckland, New Zealand, and in Saudi arabia, respectively.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Singapore's Goh, Sultan Cite Special Ties

BK3004150491 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, has said Singapore and Negara Brunei Darussalam may be small countries, but this does not mean they should think or behave small.

Speaking at a state banquet in Brunei, Mr. Goh said they may be too small to [word indistinct] affairs on their own, but if they take a principled stand on regional and international affairs, their voice will not go unheard. He cited the Gulf conflict as an example. By joining other nations of the world in opposing the Iraq invasion of Kuwait, the emirate is now once again a sovereign nation. Other examples include ASEAN and APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Council]. Mr. Goh said we should explore the potentials of the proposed EAEG [East Asia Economic Grouping]. He said it is in the common interests of Singapore and Brunei to cooperate not just within ASEAN, but also as part of a large and more prosperous Asia-Pacific. Mr. Goh is in Brunei on a two-day official visit.

On bilateral relations, the prime minister noted that Singapore and Brunei have a strong and close relationship. He also noted the economic links between the two countries are growing.

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah also noted the special bilateral ties in his speech and he stressed confidence that the relationship will be further strengthened under Mr. Goh's premiership.

Malaysia

Group To Help Remove Australian Misconceptions

BK3004153491 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Malaysian-Australian Business Council has been urged to help disseminate information to clarify and remove misconceptions to correct the perceptions of certain groups on the actual situation in Malaysia. This will go a long way toward eliminating any confrontational tendencies in the future. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said the Australian media should be more responsible in its reporting and the government had a role to play in creating a conducive environment for business to prosper both ways.

She was referring to the relations between both countries which had been strained by Australian press and television reports that were detrimental to Malaysia's image.

As for investment, she said Australia ought to safely consider relocating some of its manufacturing activities to Malaysia in order to carve a niche in the market for itself. She pointed out Malaysia was offering itself as the manufacturing base with a springboard into ASEAN and the East Asian region. As such, Australian businessmen should look at Malaysia very positively, otherwise they could be left behind.

Datuk Sri Rafidah told the council at a reception in Kuala Lumpur today that Australian investment in Malaysia until late last month involved 257 projects with an approved proposed equity of 392.7 million ringgit. One hundred thirty-eight of the projects were in production at the end of 1989. In the first quarter of this year, nine projects with Australian equity of 90.1 million ringgit were approved.

Ex-Communist Applications To Return Discussed

BK2904131291 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 28 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sat—Eighteen former Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] members will know by June if their applications to return to Malaysia have been approved by the Government.

Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Mohamed Haniff Omar who disclosed this said former CPM leaders including secretary-general Chin Peng were not among the 18.

"Chin Peng submitted his application (to return to Malaysia) quite late...towards the end of the amnesty period," he said.

However, the application by Chin Peng and about 380 others to return to Malaysia were under "active investigation and processing", he added.

Tan Sri Haniff declined to state the criteria being used to approve the applications.

However, he said, under the December 2, 1989 agreement between the Government and the CPM, only applications from Malaysian citizens would be considered.

Singapore

Premier Goh Returns From Visit to Brunei 1 May

BK0105151091 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, has returned home after a two-day official visit to Negara [State] Brunei Darussalam. Speaking at a news conference before he left Bandar Seri Begawan, he said that his trip had further cemented close ties between Singapore and Brunei. He noted that during the last two years, relations have been institutionalized with ministers and officials from both sides visiting one another and cooperating on projects.

Asked on the possibility of Brunei joining the Five Power Defense Arrangement, Mr. Goh, who is also defense minister, said Singapore welcomes and fully supports the move if Brunei wishes to do so. He said he discussed the matter with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah who showed considerable interest.

Mr. Goh also commented on the one-percent increase in the [word indistinct] CPF [Central Provident Fund] contribution from 1 July. He said the increase is completely affordable. Employers [words indistinct] given Singapore's economic growth of 8.3 percent last year. [sentence indistinct] The prime minister said he is on the side of the workers on this matter.

Goh Plans To Explain EAEG Proposal to Kaifu

BK0205072691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0503 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will help to sell the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) proposal to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu when the latter arrives here Thursday evening for a three-day visit.

Goh said he was looking forward to discussing the Malaysian proposal with Kaifu apart from discussing global issues, especially Japan's role in the world community.

He would like to explain to Kaifu why Singapore supported it and the potential in the EAEG, the local media quoted Goh as saying in Brunei before flying home Wednesday.

Goh said that Singapore saw potential in the EAEG proposal and supported the concept.

Kaifu, who was in Kuala Lumpur last week, had discussed the EAEG proposal with Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed but the Japanese leader remained non-committal although Malaysian officials said he did not raise any objections.

Dr. Mahathir proposed the EAEG earlier this year saying that East Asian countries should have a forum to voice their opinions against rising protectionism from the European Community and the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

The proposal was accepted by ASEAN countries in Indonesia last month with strong backing from Singapore.

Goh said Dr. Mahathir made it clear many times that the EAEG was not meant to be developed into a trade bloc where the group erects tariffs against others.

Instead, the EAEG is meant to be a grouping for members to consult one another and for them to negotiate with the other economic blocs such as the EC and NAFTA.

Goh said Asian countries did not have the economic strength to negotiate with Europe and America on their own.

Even Japan on its own would not have the clout that it would have by joining the EAEG.

The objective of the EAEG was to ensure that the world trading regime remained free and it was not to break up the world into three, four or five trading blocs.

Goh said one of the purposes of the EAEG was to negotiate with the Americans which could not be done within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) because the United States is also a member.

Japan's Kaifu Arrives for Three-Day Visit

BK0205074291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0711 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu arrived here Thursday on the fourth leg of his 10-day Southeast Asian tour.

He was met on arrival at Changi Airport by Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng.

Soon after arrival, Kaifu called on President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana [Palace] before holding talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

On Friday, Kaifu will deliver a major policy speech outlining Japan's new policies in the region and later hold a press conference.

He will also hold talks with senior minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Kaifu will leave for the Philippines on Saturday.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Kaifu's tour of Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines would further strengthen cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN countries. He said ASEAN played an important role in the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and the relationship between Japan and ASEAN is an important pillar of Japan's diplomacy.

Official Interviewed on Minesweeper Dispatch

OW2504161091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1514 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Singapore, April 25 KYODO—A senior Singapore Foreign Ministry official Thursday welcomed Japan's decision to send minesweepers to help clear mines from the Persian Gulf but said Japan needed to show caution.

Ambassador-at-Large Tommy Koh told KYODO NEWS SERVICE, "I welcome this move. The world expects Japan to gradually bear a greater share of the collective burden of maintaining international peace and security."

Koh, who was formerly ambassador to the United States, said Japan must show extreme caution in order not to rekindle fears left behind by its invasion and occupation of Southeast Asia during World War II.

Koh, also the director of the Institute of Policy Studies, a government initiated think tank, said the Japanese move was also timely because Western countries have not been satisfied by Japan merely contributing financial aid.

Meanwhile, a senior Southeast Asian diplomat said there is little opposition to Japan's decision to send minesweepers because it stemmed from a U.N. initiative.

It is also viewed as a civilian rather than a military initiative, the diplomat said.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu announced Wednesday Japan's decision to send minesweepers to the Gulf. The minesweepers will leave Japan on Friday.

Southeast Asian countries, victims of Japanese military aggression during World War II, have always been wary of Japan sending troops abroad because of fears of a Japanese military resurgence.

Cambodia

Further on Reported Cease-Fire Violations

BK0205003391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 May 91 p A1,2

[Excerpts] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu last night personally urged Cambodian resistance leaders to abide by the voluntary ceasefire which the guerrillas claimed was broken by the Phnom Penh troops on the first day it was supposed to take hold. [passage omitted]

Earlier, before the Japanese premier met with the resistance leaders, Cambodian resistance sources claimed Phnom Penh forces had broken the pledged temporary truce. They said the troops had launched artillery and tank attacks on guerrilla positions in central and western Cambodia yesterday.

Long-range government artillery pounded positions held by Sihanouk guerrillas in central Kompong Thom province at about 4 am, said a Sihanouk spokesman in Bangkok, Ek Sereiwath.

Two hours later, government troops launched a ground attack against Sihanouk army positions in Srei Snam and Varin in western Siem Reap province, he said, quoting reports from the high command.

"Of course we are fighting back," Ek said.

The high command also reported fighting yesterday in the western Malai area bordering Thailand held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Tank-backed troops also struck the KPNLF forces, seizing three positions south of the strategic Thmar Puok town in western Battambang province, Ek said.

"The ceasefire agreement is like a child who died before it was born," Mit Mao, a Khmer Rouge unit commander, said.

In Bangkok, Army Secretary Lt Gen Anusorn Krissanaseranee said the Thai army had received no reports of fighting anywhere along the Thai border.

Sihanouk's supporters, in a statement released in Bangkok, said more than 300 Phnom Penh troops supported by six T-54 tanks began the attacks in the Siem Reap area only hours after the midnight truce, agreed by the warring factions, came into force.

The prince's Bangkok office said the fighting lasted at least nine hours but gave no casualty figures.

"There have been some minor skirmishes but so far the cease-fire seems to be holding. It will be several days before the full picture will really be known," one western diplomat in Bangkok was quoted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE as saying.

Thai soldiers at the Wattana Nakhon-based Burapa border force in Prachin Buri said they were closely watching areas in Battambang opposite southern Aranyaprathet where the Khmer Rouge had been battling for the past month with Phnom Penh troops. Sporadic fighting was heard in the area at around 9 am, they said.

There was no immediate Cambodian government response to the guerrilla claims. Merchants, peasants and soldiers on opposite sides of the conflict welcomed the avowed cease-fire that was supposed to improve prospects for upcoming peace talks. Many, however, doubted the fighting would really halt.

"It is good to stop the fighting," said Oum Souvan, 28, a non- commissioned officer in the Cambodian government army guarding the border.

The young officer said his unit had received orders to stop any shooting "for a period."

Ministry Issues Communique on Violations

BK0205052891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0500 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 2—The Defence Ministry of the State of Cambodia issued here today a press communique warning the Khmer coalition groups against their violating the voluntary cease- fire beginning on May 1.

The communique reads as follows :

The April 22 appeal of the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the secretary general of the United Nations for a temporary end to the conflict has been welcomed and supported by all Khmer warring factions. After the appeal was put into effect, the tripartite coalition groups have violated the cease-fire by conducting military attacks on several positions of the State of Cambodia, namely at Chamka Stoeng, Kon Damrei hill, and Pang Roloem (Battambang Province), Sala Krau (Banteay Meanchey), Tonle Sar (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey), and Ta Kong Krau and Hob Russei (Banteay Meanchey-Battambang).

"A serious case of violation made by the tripartite coalition groups took place on May 1 at Ta Dong, Ta Pho and Prey Villages, and in Kouk Kpuos, Phkoam, Don Noy and in regions No.29/95 and 29/97 (15-17 km east of Svay Chek).

"In this coalition offensive, men of Pol Pot's Division 519, and of Sihanouk and Son Sann' Divisions 4, 5 and 19, with two Chinese- made tanks and artillery pieces fired thousands of shells, killing and wounding many peasants and animals, and destroying many dwelling houses. Moreover, they also committed looting and raping, thus causing many more thousands of war refugees.

"The above-mentioned moves show that the Khmer opposition side is not sincere in observing the cease-fire. They are not willing to politically solve the Cambodian problem.

"The failure by the Khmer opposition side to create an atmosphere of mutual trust right from the beginning is an attempt to bring the forthcoming Jakarta meeting into a standstill and disregard the appeal of the cochairs of the PICC and the UN secretary general.

"The Defence Ministry of the State of Cambodia urges the Khmer opposition side to immediately stop its violations. The State of Cambodia's patience is limited, and if such violations continue, the Defence Ministry of the State of Cambodia will exercise its right of self-defence to fight back against the enemy troops in the country."

Hun Sen Protests Violations by Opposition

BK0205142391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 2 May 91

["Letter from Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to their excellencies Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and his excellency Rafiuddin Ahmed, deputy secretary general of the United Nations"]

[Text] Excellency:

On behalf of the Government of the State of Cambodia, I am honored to inform you that together with the Cambodian people and all peace-loving people throughout the world, the State of Cambodia has welcomed and firmly supported the appeal issued on 22 April 1991 of the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the UN secretary general calling for a temporary end to hostilities among all warring Cambodian factions which was to go into effect on 1 May 1991. This appeal was also supported by the Cambodian factions on the other side.

Unfortunately, only a few hours after this appeal came into effect, the tripartite coalition group violated this appeal by attacking many positions of the State of Cambodia faction, such as at Chamka Stoeng, Kon Damrei Hill, and Pang Roloem in Battambang Province; Sala Krau in Banteay Meanchey Province; Tonle Sar in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province; and Ta Kong Krau and Hob Russei on the border of Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces.

The most serious cases of violation were on 1 May 1991 at 0200 when the three coalition groups of the other Cambodian side in their cooperation attacked Ta Dong and Ta Pho hills and Prey village in the Kouk Khpuos region, Phkoam and Don Noy, and Region Nos. 29/95 and 29/97 15-17 km east of Svay Chek.

In this coalition offensive, Pol Pot's Division 519 and Sihanouk's and Son Sann's Divisions 4, 5, and 19 with two tanks and several artillery pieces fired thousands of shells, killing or wounding many peasants and animals and destroying many houses. Moreover, they also committed looting and rape, thus causing thousands of people to become war refugees and deplaced persons.

All these activities clearly reflected that the Cambodian opposition side is not sincere in observing the cease-fire and that they have no intention of politically solving the Cambodian problem.

The creation at such an early time by the Cambodian opposition side of an atmosphere of mistrust is an attempt to torpedo the forthcoming Jakarta meeting and is disrespectful of the appeal made by the cochairmen and the UN secretary general which they have already supported.

The State of Cambodia would like to reiterate that it fully supports this appeal made by the PICC cochairmen and the UN secretary general by exercising complete self-restraint and requests Your Excellency to use your good offices to halt these hostilities being conducted by the three coalition groups and to make them strictly respect the appeal.

At the same time, the State of Cambodia would also like to stress that its self-restraint has its limit. If the violations by the other side continue, it is imperative for us to use every means at our disposal to punish the belligerent party and safeguard our people's peaceful lives.

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your efforts toward a political solution to the Cambodian problem. Your Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest considerations.

Interview With Ranariddh on Cease-Fire

BK0205134191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 May 91

[Interview with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia, by unidentified Radio VOK correspondent; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a correspondent of the Radio Voice of the Khmer [VOK]. My respects to your highness, the personal representative of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral

Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], and supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC]. I would like to thank your highness for granting this interview to me. Recently, the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], namely France and Indonesia, and the UN secretary general made an appeal for a temporary cease-fire in Cambodia and the four Cambodian factions have already welcomed this call of the PICC cochairmen and UN secretary general. What is your opinion regarding this matter?

[Ranariddh] First of all, I would like to thank you, the VOK correspondent, and extend my highest respects and greetings to the venerable monks, grandmothers, grandfathers, and all compatriots and listeners of the VOK who are currently living in the liberated zone under the control of our FUNCINPEC and in the other liberated areas and areas under the temporary control of our enemy. My warmest greetings and most profound gratitude to all venerable monks, ladies, gentlemen, and all Cambodian compatriots for their support to our Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC movement as well as to our NAIC, an army that is most loyal to our Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

To your first question, in my capacity as the personal representative of our samdech euv and secretary general of our FUNCINPEC, as well as the commander in chief of the NAIC, I am very honored to answer as follows:

1. Our stance has always been one of fighting for peace and national independence for a Cambodia that has its honor and pride, not a Cambodia that is independent in name only, a Cambodia that is subservient to an alien country and deprived of freedom and honor. Our stance is to have an end to the bloodshed between Cambodians. Because of deception by and credulity given to the Hanoi-Phnom Penh enemy propaganda, some segments of Cambodian and international opinion still mistakenly believe that the current fighting in Cambodia is an inter-Cambodian civil war. I would like to stress that in reality it is a war of aggression by the more than 1 million—some would even say something closer to 2 million—Vietnamese living in Cambodia. There are no less than 50,000 Vietnamese troops attacking us on all battlefields, including Pailin, Thmar Puok, and Oddar Meanchey. These regular Vietnamese infantry troops are either directly attacking us or supporting the puppet army in its attacks against us. For this reason, I said that the war that we are fighting at present is a war of aggression, not a civil war between Cambodians. All the same, our stance is to stop the shedding of Cambodian blood.

I am so sorry that the Cambodians in Phnom Penh have served the Vietnamese interests and agreed to shed the blood of their own fellow Cambodians on behalf of Vietnam. Because of this clear stance I have just mentioned, our resistance movement and our army have announced, before anyone else—I must confirm that we were the first, through our spokesman Mr. Ek Sereivoat—our support for the proposal by the PICC cochairmen, Indonesia and France, and by the UN secretary general calling on all Cambodians to cease firing temporarily from 1 May until the holding of the meeting in Jakarta. We have already voiced our support for this call, and our support means:

First, we want to show now as well as in the future that we love peace. We are fighting not because we want war, but because it is the duty and obligation of all Cambodian patriots to shed their blood and make all kinds of sacrifice in order to salvage our nation and seize our national independence, freedom, and liberal democracy from the Vietnamese communist aggressors. This is the first stance, the first meaning given to our decision for support.

Second, we want to create a good atmosphere, an atmosphere of unity, that would enable the forthcoming Jakarta meeting to resolve the remaining points in the Cambodian problem that have been raised by the Phnom Penh side. We want to create a good atmosphere for the forthcoming Jakarta meeting so that it will be successful.

Third, we must always be on alert.

This is my exhortation to all NAIC commanders and all my beloved valiant combatants.

1. You must wait for the direct order from our NAIC Supreme Command.

2. Although we cease our fire because we are peacelovers, we must be on alert to retaliate in time if the other Cambodian side violates the truce agreement. If they attack us, we have the duty and the right, the right of self-defense, to retaliate in order to protect ourselves, our liberated zone, and the people who are living in or who have fled from other areas to our zone.

Since we have repeatedly stressed our love for peace, as soon as we heard about the call for a cease-fire in order to create a favorable atmosphere for the Jakarta meeting, we voiced our support for it right away. I would like to stress, however, that first, we agree with this call; second, all our commanders should wait for the concrete order from the NAIC Supreme Command; and third, our compatriots should not be careless. Do not be too complacent and careless to the point that the enemy might take the opportunity to attack us. We will not attack them first. But, we must be prepared so that we can use the internationally accepted right of self-defense.

Before ending this matter, I would like to stress that Vietnam had in the past broken its own promises. How? It promised the South Vietnamese and the Americans that it would not attack, but then took advantage of the truce to launch a very large-scale offensive against the South Vietnamese and American troops. Therefore, we must also be careful with this matter. In Cambodia, as I mentioned above, there are Vietnamese troops. The Hanoi authorities have supported the cease-fire. This support means that they accepted that there are Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. If their troops are not there, why should they support it? That is the first point.

The second point is that the cochairmen and the UN secretary general called on the Cambodians to stop fighting, but they did not ask the Vietnamese to stop. For this reason, the Vietnamese might still attack us. Therefore, I would like to call on our compatriots to be very alert. Yet, as part of our principled stance, we would always support anything that can bring peace to Cambodia as soon as possible.

I would like also to make an appeal to Mr. Hun Sen, who claimed that he has already ordered his commanders to prepare for the cease- fire. I would like him to make a clear order; if he would, we would stop fighting temporarily. In my opinion, to make this cease-fire last, it should be placed within a framework, that is the framework of the overall solution provided by the United Nations. Only within this framework can a long-lasting and permanent cease-fire be brought to our Cambodia.

[Correspondent] There have been reports that there are possibilities for a meeting to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia. This meeting is expected to be the most important step toward settling the Heng Samrin regime's disagreement with the peace plan of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. In your opinion, is there any other obstacle to be settled at this meeting?

[Ranariddh] Concerning your second question, I would like to answer as follows:

1. Our Cambodian national resistance forces headed by our esteemed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk have announced very clearly that we are always ready to attend the coming meeting in Jakarta to which the cochairmen, Indonesia and France, have invited the 12 Supreme National Council [SNC] members. Therefore, we have always been prepared for this meeting. We have not only prepared ourselves but also on several occasions sent a joint letter to the cochairmen, Indonesia and France, asking them to quickly call on all SNC members to meet in Jakarta so as to stimulate the process of finding a solution to the Cambodian problem.

I have heard that this meeting might be held in late May or early June. I feel it is too late. The sooner it is held, the quicker peace will come to our beloved Cambodia. This is our clear stance. Concerning the significance of this Jakarta meeting, I would like to stress to you that the Cambodian national resistance forces have repeatedly stressed that there is no problem with them. They always fully and unreservedly support the framework document dated 28 August 1990 as well as the so-called draft agreement dated 26 November 1990. We must repeat again and again that our side fully and unreservedly accepts these documents. Only Phnom Penh and Hanoi have not yet done so. Hanoi and Phnom Penh have raised at least four questions. They said, first, that these documents violate the UN Charter; second, that these documents violate our Cambodia's sovereignty; third, that these documents if implemented cannot prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning—it was they who said genocidal Pol Pot—and fourth, that these documents did not mention what they called genocide.

Concerning these four points, I would like to inform you and, through the VOK, all venerable monks and all patriots as follows:

Let us talk about Cambodia's sovereignty first. What a wonderful topic! The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have violated Cambodia's sovereignty for the past 12 years and now they said that these documents violate Cambodia's sovereignty. It is very surprising to hear this from the mouths of the Hanoi authorities.

Who is in charge of Cambodia's sovereignty? Who represents Cambodia's sovereignty? It is none other than our resistance movement headed by our samdech euv [Sihanouk]. We occupy the seat of Cambodia at the United Nations and our flag is flying at the UN Headquarters. Yet we accept the documents because we understand that they do not violate Cambodia's sovereignty. The documents clearly state that the one that controls, that represents Cambodia's sovereignty, is the SNC. Even international law permits that whoever is in charge of the sovereignty is entitled to hand over part of it to a second party. Moreover, this handover is conditional. The most important condition is that it is not entitled to hand over sovereignty permanently; it can do so only temporarily, within a sufficient timeframe. International law authorizes us to do so. Therefore, within the peace document of the United Nations, we who represent Cambodia's sovereignty, or more specifically the SNC, are entitled to hand over five or six ministries to the United Nations because if we let Cambodians, especially Hun Sen, occupy them, there would be no guarantee for free elections to be organized by the United Nations in Cambodia. This is about sovereignty.

Second, how about the UN Charter? Gentlemen, if we have to talk about the UN Charter, I would like to inform you that I do not understand this point at all. Just as I said above, the Big-Five document has become a UN document because the UNSC accepted it fully and unanimously as such. The UN General Assembly also accepted it, and the UN secretary general sent the so-called mandate to the two cochairmen, Indonesia and France, to do their best to end the war in Cambodia and settle the Cambodian problem by having a peace agreement signed within the framework of this document. If this document, which has become a UN document, violated the UN Charter, it would then mean that the UN secretary general, the UNSC, and all 160 UN General Assembly member states had violated the UN Charter, and only Vietnam, which has always betrayed the UN Charter all its life, and the Phnom Penh regime, which is not even a UN member, would be the most concerned about the UN Charter! This can only show us that they relentlessly and ceaselessly seek by all means and excuses to block off the peace process in Cambodia.

Third, they claimed that this document is favorable to our resistance. If implemented, this document would be favorable to our resistance movement because it would not be able to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to Cambodia. Venerable monks and beloved listeners, please form your own judgment. This document was developed by the five permanent UNSC members. Of these five members, four—namely, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—find the Khmer Rouge unbearably loathsome. For this reason, would it mean that these four countries, which contributed to the establishment of this draft agreement document, wish to see Pol Pot return to Cambodia? Of course not. Definitely not. Just as Minister Roland Dumas said in Paris on 21 December 1990, this document is the most balanced document. This was said by Roland Dumas of France. Later on, Gareth Evans of Australia, which has a great interest in Phnom Penh, said that only this document can save the Cambodian people. For these reasons, our resistance movement fully accepts the document. And who then stands in its way? Hanoi and Phnom Penh do.

Hanoi and Phnom Penh further said that we should not be disarmed fearing that the Khmer Rouge would return and start massacring the people again. I would like to inform all of you that I do not understand this at all. If we were afraid of the Khmer Rouge, we should allow the United Nations to send its mighty force to Cambodia, and the United Nations has already been prepared to send as many as 20,000 troops to our country provided all of us agree to be disarmed by the United Nations. But Vietnam and Phnom Penh said no, they should not be completely disarmed. They asked to keep some weapons. With some arms remaining, suppose fighting would resume and the United Nations leave them, would not they be in for it again?

Therefore, in order to ensure security for our population and organize free elections, there must be a complete disarmament of all armed Cambodian factions, the disarming of the Vietnamese, the destruction of all arms caches and ammunition, and the handover of arms to the United Nations. Only then can the 20,000 UN troops come to Cambodia to keep peace and organize elections.

These are the most important points that our side has already agreed to accept. Therefore, I am hopeful that the Jakarta meeting will be a very significant conference where all of you, venerable monks and compatriots, will see who loves peace and who is against peace. I hope that then all SNC members, and especially the representatives of the Phnom Penh side, will display their goodwill and their sense of patriotism by accepting the UN documents. I do not mean that we must accept or reject all the remaining problems. We must of course discuss them. I hold, however, that we must discuss them within a broad framework, namely, the framework of the PICC with Indonesia and France as the cochairmen. We must discuss them within this framework, as well as within the framework of the coordinating committee, because this committee comprises other members besides us, Cambodians. In other words, we want the participation of all members of the PICC because the Cambodian problem is not a problem between Cambodians only, but one that was created by Vietnam that still has Vietnamese troops and illegal Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia. Moreover, this is a problem touching on the stability and peace of Southeast Asia and the rest of Asia. Therefore, we hold that we must proceed quickly in Jakarta and from Jakarta to the coordinating committee of the Paris conference.

In short, I am also hopeful. And I would like to pledge here that I myself will do all my best to turn the Jakarta meeting into a success for the process toward bringing peace back to Cambodia.

I would like to conclude by stressing that the point about genocide was clearly mentioned in the 26 November 1990 draft agreement document. On four pages in Annex IV, human rights were discussed. In my opinion, in these four pages necessary measures have been prepared in order to prevent the recurrence of human rights violations in Cambodia. I have already studied this four- page document and found it amply adequate. However, if it is still deemed inadequate, our side is ready to make further discussions within the framework of the coordinating committee of the PICC.

Anyway, let me say again, this document has been very well prepared. It includes virtually everything from the so-called military arrangements, the temporary authorities, the elections, and human rights to the guarantees for Cambodia's independence and neutrality. To date, we have never seen any document that is so thoroughly prepared. For this reason, we have repeatedly stressed that we accept it. If the gentlemen on the other side agreed to accept it today or even tomorrow, we would be going back to Paris the day after and once there we would be able to sign a peace treaty on the day after that. This is all, thank you.

VONADK: Pailin Ordered Seized 'at Any Cost'

BK0205011891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] According to reports by the national resistance forces stationed on the Battambang battlefield and our people, on 28 April the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators dispatched three truck-loads of Vietnamese and puppet and lackey soldiers to the Route 10-Battambang battlefield.

The reports also say that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators disptached these troops out of Battambang provincial town to the Treng position with the aim of seizing liberated zones in Pailin from the national resistance forces. The reports say that these Vietnamese and puppet and lacky soldiers are new recruits and have never fought before. As soon as they reached Route 10, 30 of these new soldiers immediately deserted.

Deserted Cambodian soldiers told our people that the Vietnamese and puppet ringleaders' plan is to seize Pailin and other places from the resistance forces because the

Vietnamese were dealt serious setbacks this dry season. The Cambodian soldiers also said Vietnamese leaders have issued orders to take Pailin at any cost. These soldiers said: "We are afraid of dying; we are deserting first. Those who think they are smart with their heads shielded by steel plates, let them try to attack and take Pailin."

Indonesia

Alatas Pleased Over Cambodian Cease-Fire

BK0105131491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has expressed happiness over observance of the cease-fire by the warring Cambodian factions. The cease-fire begins today. He believes such an action will bring about a positive outcome.

Replying to questions by newsmen after attending a limited cabinet plenary session on economy and finance held at Bina Graha, Jakarta this morning, Minister Ali Alatas said all the Cambodian factions had indicated their desire to attend the upcoming Supreme National Council meeting in Jakarta.

According to Minister Ali Alatas, there are no mechanisms to monitor the cease-fire because its implementation depends on the awareness and desire of all the conflicting parties.

Embassies in Baghdad, Kuwait To Reopen in May

BK0205070091 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The embassies of the Republic of Indonesia in Baghdad and Kuwait are scheduled to reopen this month following their closure due to the Gulf war. Speaking prior to the limited cabinet meeting on economic, financial, and industrial affairs in Jakarta yesterday, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said there was no problem with the reopening of the embassies. The matter simply needs to be processed.

According to reports received by Minister Ali Alatas, the embassies of the Republic of Indonesia in Baghdad and Kuwait remain physically intact.

Japan Vows To Help Restore Environment

OW0105143891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 1 1227 91

[Text] Jakarta, May 1 KYODO—Japan's environment minister pledged Wednesday to help Indonesia restore its forests and cope with environmental issues.

Talking to reporters before leaving Jakarta, Kazuo Aichi, state minister in charge of the Environment Agency, said he met Indonesian President Suharto on Tuesday and gave an assurance of Japan's readiness to help with Indonesia's environmental problems.

Aichi, who left Wednesday morning for Beijing after a five-day trip here, was the first Japanese environment minister to visit Indonesia.

Japanese diplomats said Wednesday Suharto has also called on Japan to assist in Indonesia's nuclear program.

They said the Indonesian leader made the request in a meeting Monday with Akiko Santo, Japanese cabinet minister in charge of the Science and Technology Agency.

Aichi and Santo were traveling separately in Indonesia.

The meeting between Aichi and Suharto took place a day after Aichi paid a two-day visit to the tropical forest in east Kalimantan which was seriously damaged by exploitation and fires in the last two decades.

"Efforts to protect the environment are not contradicting economic development," Aichi told Suharto and Indonesian Environment Minister Emil Salim in their meeting Tuesday.

Japan will contribute to a reforestration plan by sending experts and financial backing, Aichi said.

Indonesia has recently been under attack by environmentalist groups in the West over massive forest destruction and its damaging effect on the world's environment.

"We recognize the role of tropical forests in maintaining the world's environment but the forests in Europe, America, and other parts of the world also play a role," Suharto was quoted as saying.

"Much of the world's pollution was caused by a high level of carbon dioxide and other harmful gases emitted by the industrialized countries, therefore they should also control their pollution," Suharto reportedly said.

Aichi also visited Jakarta Bay Tuesday and said he was surprised to see how polluted it is. "It seems impossible to make the water clean again," he said.

Aichi said he expects it will be necessary in the future for Japanese companies which have joint ventures in the Third World to follow environmental regulations set in Japan.

In his meeting with Santo, Suharto disclosed the Indonesian Government's wish to get technological support from Japan for the first nuclear power plant planned in Ujung Watu, a central Java village.

Indonesia is interested in Japan's technology for safe nuclear plants, Suharto was quoted as telling Santo. Santo made no commitment to the request, Japanese diplomats said.

The Ujung Watu nuclear power plant is scheduled to go onstream in the year 2003 and plant construction is expected to start in 1994 or 1995. The construction cost for the proposed 600-megawatt plant is estimated at 1 billion to 1.5 billion dollars.

Interview With Democratic Forum Chairman

BK0105124191 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 13 Apr 91 pp 20,21

["Excerpts" of interview with Abdurrahman Wahid, chairman of Democratic Forum, by TEMPO correspondent Wahyu Muryadi in Jakarta on 11 April]

[Text] [Muryadi] Why was the Democratic Forum established?

[Wahid] The forum was established out of concern for the growing trend to put group interests above all else, while the spirit of solidarity and democracy is diminishing. Democracy and public interests are sometimes eclipsed by group interests. Even though it is only a trend, it makes us feel uneasy because group and sectarian interests are growing unabatedly. Therefore, I spoke to my friends to find a way out and a dialogue among us subsequently took place at the Cisarua cottage [preceding word in English], during which the Democratic Forum was established.

[Muryadi] What do you mean exactly by growing sectarian trend in our society?

[Wahid] There are many examples. One of them is the closing of the MONITOR tabloid. Some Muslims were offended by Arswendo's [MONITOR's editor] survey, but their anger went to the extent of demanding the revocation of the tabloid's publication permit. Several Muslim intellectuals, whom I had earlier believed to be democratic-minded people, also demanded such a revocation.

Well, don't you think this is the example of sectarian interest being put above national interest? People tend to talk more about their group's achievements than fundamental problems faced by this country. Such action alone has destroyed one democratic institution. If this trend is left unchecked, democracy will surely be trampled upon in Indonesia.

[Muryadi] What do you see is the extent of the government's sincerity in upholding democracy?

[Wahid] As long as some people are banned from leaving the country and the issue of publication permits is restricted, there is no full democracy here. Indeed, democratic behavior has not been seen here. People continue to consult their superiors for minor problems. Laws are drafted and enacted mechanically and public opinion has a limited role. Law enforcement is still difficult with the existence of mafia courts, not to mention the proliferation of corruption. Our legal procedures are painfully slow, so only those in influential positions can benefit from the existing situation.

[Muryadi] The government will surely question this forum. How are you going to explain it?

[Wahid] Well, it is up to them because we are not doing anything. We will only produce papers and present the results of our studies. That is why it is called a forum, which is aimed at exchanging views. This is not a social organization, but a simple association, comparable to a tontine. Nobody should fear us because we are not building our strength. We are not a pressure group [two preceding words in English], but because we undergo hardship in upholding democracy, our words will probably carry some weight.

We only hope that the public will pay more attention to the need to uphold democracy. We cannot avoid using unpleasant words in our task to uphold democracy. If we forget the efforts to improve public awareness on democracy, democracy itself will suffer because our national integration will not be complete without democracy.

[Muryadi] Before you established this forum, you were reported to have made contacts with the authorities.

[Wahid] Yes, there were some contacts, but there is no need to mention names. We all know that according to the Indonesian way of doing things, we must hold consultations first.

[Muryadi] What about the NU [Nahdlatul Ulama Muslim group]? Has it contributed to the process to uphold democracy?

[Wahid] The NU has no relation to this movement. They are a religious movement with wide-ranging activities. It is not NU's business to get involved in upholding democracy.

[Muryadi] What happens if Muslim laypeople or leaders question your involvement in this forum?

[Wahid] I have not seen any disturbing reactions. I do not care if the government or cabinet meets to discuss this forum. Let the ICMI [Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Association] do what it wants because we are entitled to exercise our rights.

[Muryadi] What is the essence of a desirable democracy you dream about?

[Wahid] Differences of opinion is the essence of democracy. If you ban differences of opinion, then you are a would-be dictator and not a follower of the Pancasila ideology. Why fear differences of opinion? Even Prophet Mohamed allowed it. Do you want to be higher than the prophet? The society hopes to have a healthy and honest exchange of ideas and it is not afraid of having differences of opinion. Democracy is freedom, justice, and equality before the law. We only hope that the public will not forget this.

[Muryadi] Up until now, to what extent has the democratic process progressed?

[Wahid] It is obvious that the process is facing stagnation because of different interpretations. The government only understands democracy in terms of institutions. They said democratic institutions, such as the parliament, have been established. But other people speak in terms of democratic behavior. To get a complete picture of what democracy is all about, it is therefore necessary for us to exchange ideas, so our understanding of democracy will be more or less similar.

[Muryadi] How is it possible that such a polarization of perceptions about democracy can occur?

[Wahid] Because we are human beings who have political and other interests. Some of them understand democracy at the institutional level, while others think it is not important. We from the Democratic Forum believe that democracy, as an institution and political culture, must work together to promote the democratic pattern.

[Muryadi] Can you compare the establishment of this Democratic Forum with, say, the Democratic League, founded many years ago?

[Wahid] This forum is only a continuation of what has been done before. We have no pretensions that we are the only ones able to establish it. Nobody can monopolize democracy. The spirit is similar, but the goals may be different because democratic practices in the past tended to be more institutional in nature. The Democratic League tried to defend certain political institutions.

I believe that the struggle to attach importance to democratic institutions is futile even though it is quite important. We all know that it is very hard to establish democratic institutions. It is better for existing institutions to improve their work. We will develop public awareness on democratic culture while people will later develop existing institutions through more democratic practices.

[Muryadi] Don't you think that this idea of national integrity is similar to the one proposed by the Cipayung [dissident] Group?

[Wahid] No, that group is a political movement, while we are only a cultural group. We will only present facts and our ideas for solving certain problems. It is up to the authorities to decide. We also believe that people have reached a level of political maturity.

[Muryadi] When we look at the names of those supporting this forum, it appears that religious sentiment is stronger than the spirit to uphold democracy.

[Wahid] No. On the contrary, we want to remove such religious sentiments. When I decided not to join the Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Association, people thought that I had begun to distance myself from Islam. You all know that all programs of the Nahdlatul Ulama are Islam-oriented. The membership of this Democratic Forum consists of people from several persuasions. I am from the Muslim group, Mulya Lubis from the socialists, Bondan from the nationalists, Marianne Katoppo from the Protestants, and Alfons Taryadi from the Roman Catholics.

Laos

Yi Chong-ok Arrives for Seven-Day Visit

BK0205131691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The delegation of the DPRK Government led by Vice President Yi Chong-ok arrived in Vientiane this morning for an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of the acting president of the LPDR.

At Wattai Aiport, Yi Chong-ok and his party were accorded an honorable welcome by Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit and high-level cadres. Chang Yong-chun, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR, was also at the airport to welcome the DPRK delegation.

Yi Chong-kok will pay a seven-day official friendship visit to the LPDR and will exchange views with his counterpart, Phoumi Vongvichit, head of the Lao delegation, on various issues of mutual interest, especially on the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries and others.

PASASON Welcomes Delegation

BK0205052391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 2 May 91

[PASASON 2 May editorial: "Wholeheartedly Salute and Welcome the High-Level DPRK Delegation"]

[Text] Respected listeners, today a high-level delegation of the DPRK led by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, vice president of the DPRK, bringing with it the friendship and warm solidarity from some 20 million DPRK people, is coming to pay an official friendship visit to our country. Vientiane residents, as well as the entire Lao people, are greatly elated to salute and greet the state guests from the DPRK on this occasion.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the DPRK have long maintained the traditions of solidarity and affection. Our Lao people have enjoyed the support and assistance given to them by the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the government, and the fraternal Korean people in carrying out the just cause both during the past period of struggle against the imperialist aggressors and the present period of national defense and building. Our Lao people have always stood by the side with the Korean people and supported their struggle for the unification of the Korean nation free from imperialist aggression.

Talking about the Lao-Korean friendship, we cannot forget a historic event: the friendship visit to the DPRK in 1976 by a delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], a top-level delegation of Laos, led by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan. Following the visit, consultations were held and agreements on many issues were reached between the LPRP and the WPK. This has served as a vital symbol for the promotion and expansion of the Lao-Korean relations of friendship and solidarity to this day.

This visit to our country by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, vice president of the DPRK, is also considered a historic event in the evolution of Lao-Korean friendship. It will certainly contribute to further nurturing the time-honored friendship between the two countries, promoting it to an ever higher level, and making it ever more beautiful on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

Our entire Lao people wish Comrade Yi Chong-ok and all members of the DPRK delegation glorious success in this visit to the LPDR. May the Lao-Korean friendship be fruitfully nourished and enhanced, ever more extensively and profoundly, with each passing day!

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives Chea Sim, Delegation

BK0205124791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] On 1 May, the high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia National Assembly led by Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense of the State of Cambodia, paid a courtesy call on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], at the LPRP CC Guest House in Vientiane capital.

During the call, Comrade Chea Sim first conveyed the warm congratulations of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan on the latter's appointment as chairman of the LPRP CC at the Fifth LPRP Congress. The Cambodian leader also wholeheartedly hailed the success of the congress. After that, the two sides briefed each other on the current situation in their respective countries. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan particularly discussed some lessons on the comprehensive building of the revolutionary forces by placing an emphasis on turning to the grass roots as an important issue aimed at mobilizing the people of all strata to rally around the party and state. After that, the revolutionary forces will become strong enough to fight against the enemies. At the same time, experiences gained in our activities in the international field in the new situation and in the political struggle under the circumstances of restructuring are also very essential. First of all, the revolutionary forces must be maintained to remain strong and to possess genuine unity and unification. Only by doing this will we be able to defeat the enemies. The Cambodian guests highly assessed the lessons and experiences raised by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and regarded them as excellent lessons for them.

Earlier at 1400, the Laos-Cambodia Friendship Association and a number of cadres also called on Chairman Chea Sim and his entourage at the Government Guest House, thus serving to further deepen the special solidarity and friendship between Laos and Cambodia and to promote better understanding among the masses in the two countries.

At noon on the same day, the high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia National Assembly returned to Vientiane after visiting Luang Prabang Province for nearly 20 hours.

Defense Ministry Announces Major General's Death

BK0205070891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 2 May 91

[Press release issued by the National Defense Ministry on the death of Major General Thonglai Kommasit, member of the fourth party Central Committee and first deputy head of the Army General Political Department, in Vientiane; date not given]

[Text] The National Defense Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the family of Major General Thonglai Kommasit would like to inform all ministries, various organizations, and various units of the Lao People's Army as well as all relatives and friends of the sad news that Major General Thonglai Kommasit, member of the fourth Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and first deputy head of the Army General Political Department, passed away due to liver cancer in the military hospital at 1350 on 1 May. He was 55. His body is being kept at the clubhouse of the Army General Political Department in Vientiane. The schedule for the funeral of Maj. Gen. Thognlai Kommasit is as follows:

1 and 2 May: Traditional religious rites will be held;

3 May: In the morning, representatives of various sectors will lay wreaths; in the afternoon, an official mourning ceremony is to be held at the clubhouse of the Army General Political Department at 1330; the body will be moved to the funeral site at the km marker-5 grounds at 1400; a religious ceremony will be held at the funeral site at 1430; and the cremation will take place at 1500.

On this occasion, the National Defense Ministry has set up a committee to handle the funeral for Maj. Gen. Thonglai Kommasit. The announcement to set up the committee reads as follows:

To best implement the policy of the party and state toward deceased revolutionary cadres, the National Defense Ministry has decided to set up a committee to be in charge of organizing the funeral of Maj. Gen. Thonglai Kommasit. The committee comprises 14 persons with Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason as chairman and Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva as vice chairman. The other 12 persons are members of the committee. They are Brigadier General Savai Sai-gnasena, Brigadier General Sounthon Chitvilaphon, Colonel Somphet Thipmala, Brigadier General Phonsai Chaleunsouk, Colonel Visai Bobaikham, Colonel Somvang Vongkhamsao, Colonel Souksi Hemthammavong, Colonel Thongvan Phanthakit, Lieutenant Colonel Souphot, Major Maipheng, Phonsai Santavisi, and Thansamai Kommasit.

The committee is authorized to organize the religious rites and funeral ceremony in the best manner possible.

PASASON Carries Editorial Marking May Day

BK0105134991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[PASASON 1 May editorial: "Celebrate 1 May With the Spirit of Restructuring"]

[Text] Today, 1 May 1991, marks the 105th anniversary of the uprising by 180,000 workers in Chicago, the United States, demanding an eight-hour work day and a wage increase. This historic event is being celebrated by workers and the laboring class worldwide amid the rapidly changing and confusing international situation.

Apart from many tremendous positive changes in our country and the brilliant successes of the fifth congress of our party, economic and cultural development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is happily moving ahead. In the past year, the Lao workers' movement and laboring people of all strata demonstrated their high degree of unanimity on the political, economic, cultural, and social lines of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and secured numerous achievements in different spheres of work. First of all, the gross national product increased by nearly 30 percent as paddy production rose to 1.5 million tons. Our industry and handicraft sector continued to expand while new foundations for production of agricultural and forestry products, agricultural tools, construction materials, and hydroelectricity have been established. Our people's traditional handicrafts have been further promoted. More essential and better quality commodities with reasonable prices are being produced in the country. The production of export goods is being promoted and has good prospects.

Workers in infrastructure construction have also made progress. Many new roads have been constructed. National highways have been renovated and asphalted in many parts of the country. The construction of dozens of major bridges has been fundamentally completed, thus providing smooth, thorough, and more convenient transportation and communications. This is an important contribution to the promotion of production, sociocultural development, and contact among people.

In trade, efforts have been made to implement the free and legal circulation of goods and business transactions based on mutual agreement. The position and role of trade have become prominent.

Foreign economic relations and cooperation have been broadened. We have successfully obtained financial assistance and loans for socioeconomic development from foreign countries. Subsequently, more and more foreign companies have invested in the exploration and exploitation of natural resources and have engaged in business production in our country.

Trade unions in all localities have been cooperating with youth and women unions and the Lao Front for National Construction in heightening their active roles in creating solidarity and collective strength for the country. Moreover, workers in all sectors have also sacrificed their physical and mental energy and materials in all social undertakings, thus contributing to national development and the gradual improvement of the people's lives.

In the years to come, Lao workers and the laboring people of all strata will further forge ahead to contribute to national defense and construction, promoting the right to self-mastery and democracy of the people of all tribes and strata according to the restructuring policy in all spheres of work.

During the past year, the worker movement and laboring people in our country have significantly contributed to the socioeconomic development, thus giving a new face to the country and improving our people's livelihood to a certain extent. So as to expand the accomplishments and register new achievements as contributions to the implementation of the resolution of the fifth party congress, Lao workers and laboring people must unite and rally around the party and government to resolutely fulfill the operation targets of all hospitals, factories, enterprises, and offices. For the present, we must harvest the dry-season rice and effectively prepare for the cultivation of monsoon rice; expeditiously transport and deliver goods before the rainy season; launch tree-planting and forest preservation campaigns; prepare for the final school examinations for the current academic year; prevent the outbreak of rainy season diseases; and enhance vigilance against enemy subversive schemes to secure genuine peace and stability for the people to produce in all seasons.

Philippines

Bases Talks End 3 May; Issues Remain Unresolved

HK0205060691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The Philippine and U.S. panels are still hopeful that the bases compensation and retention issues will be resolved tomorrow even after Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said that a new treaty may not be forged due to lack of time. The sixth round of bases talks will end tomorrow but up until yesterday, no clear agreement had been reached, particularly in the two aforementioned issues. The Philippines is asking for $825 million compensation and a seven-year extension while the United States is only willing to give $320 million compensation and a 10-year extension. The Republic of the Philippines-U.S. bases agreement will terminate in September this year.

Maceda To Attempt Blocking of Abadia Nomination

HK0205080591 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Senator Ernesto Maceda will make it difficult for Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the

Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, to get the endorsement of the Commission on Appointments [CA]. He will try to block the latter's nomination. Maceda said he is not convinced that the military is winning the war against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army. He added that even after Abadia's appointment is confirmed, he still has to prove himself before the CA.

Meanwhile, AFP Chief Abadia denied Maceda's allegation. He admitted that the military is encountering difficulties in fighting the rebels, but said they are not losing. Abadia explained that the strategy on which Maceda based his statement is not official because the actual AFP report would prove that the military is winning against the rebels. He also said that of the total fatalities reported between government troops and the communist guerrillas this year, 208 are from the military while 377 are from the NPA.

In a joint press statement, Abadia and Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno said that Maceda's allegation is based on inaccurate data. According to them, the anticommunist drive is succeeding and the NPA's strength and forces continue to weaken.

Fiji Included on Restricted Countries List

HK0105110691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Philippines will include Fiji on its list of restricted countries. South Africa tops the government's restricted list because of its apartheid policy. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus announced this in the presence of visiting Indian officials, headed by President Ramaswami Venkataraman, during their courtesy call on President Aquino. According to Secretary Manglapus, Fiji's new Constitution rejects its own people who are of Indian origin. He said this is the reason for the action to include it on the government's restricted list.

Military To Revive 'Elite' Scout Rangers Unit

HK0205070191 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, announced that the military will revive the Scout Rangers. The elite group will help fight communist rebels. The Scout Ranger forces are expected to be in operation this week.

Marine Detachment Attacked; Ambushers Overcome

HK0105120291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 May 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Two hundred fifty fully armed men, headed by Tipo-Tipo, Basilan Vice Mayor Ustad Akhmad attacked a Marine detachment in Tipo-Tipo proper at about 1200 [0400 GMT] yesterday. The marines defended their ground against the attackers' strong firepower.

Meanwhile, reinforcements, under the command of Philippine Navy Captain Hassam Alamia and riding on vehicles supported by two V-150 commandos [as heard], were ambushed by 50 armed men in Sitio Suminoy, Tipo-Tipo. A brief encounter ensued forcing the ambushers to retreat. The reinforcements fought the enemy, who retreated to the southeast. These incidents occurred yesterday but were only reported by the military today.

The Philippine Marines wounded in the incident were 2d Lieutenant Adonis Palma, Sergeant Nestor Fernandez, Patrolman First Class [PFC] Cesar Cayno, PFC Roderick Salvador, Sergeant Ernesto Manangan, Corporal Arcelito Solgo, and PFC Jovencio Solacito. One enemy was killed.

NPA Kill Barangay Captain, Son in Ambush

HK0105115491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 May 91

[Report from Banguio City by correspondent Romy Gonzales]

[Text] A barangay captain of Penarrubia, Abra and his 13-year old child were ambushed by suspected New People's Army [NPA] hitmen at 0930 this morning while on their way back to the barangay. Killed on the spot was Romeo Bringas, 38 years old, barangay captain of Namarabar, Penarrubia, Abra. His son Rommel, a first year high school student, who was riding on a motorcycle with his father, died at the Abra Provincial Hospital due to multiple gunshot wounds.

According to Rudy Buligado, first civil relations commander based in Baguio City, the two were ambushed in a barangay less than a kilometer from Penarrubia, Abra. He said that Bringas and his son were on their way home from the town center after a meeting with Mayor Antonio Duming-as of Abra when they were ambushed.

Recovered from the ambush site were 16 M-14 empty casings, three M-16 live rounds, three empty M-16 casings, two tins of sardines, and a note saying: This person is evil. His acts are not to be imitated. Signed, NPA Command. Long live the NPA. Comrade Silver.

According to Mayor Duming-as, Bringas was one of the province's most active barangay captains.

Colonel Emil de Leon, Task Force Abra commander and concurrent 701st Infantry Brigade commander, condemned the killing of a civilian official, adding that the incident only made the Task Force Abra more determined to continue with what it has started.

Presidential Contenders Detail Economic Platforms

Juan Ponce Enrile

HK0804044891 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

["Transition 1992" by Johanna Son; first in a series]

[Text] Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile says his economic agenda for 1992 rests on three crucial issues: energy, communications and the foreign debt.

But Enrile, 66, refuses to elaborate on the three topics, complaining that other presidential aspirants have been copying his ideas. All he disclosed was that his way of running the country would certainly be "drastically different" from the Aquino government's.

Enrile continued: "I will deal with the country on the basis of these three main concerns." He is also in favor of instituting strict controls on the importation of non-essentials and the use of foreign exchange. Enrile is not hot about import liberalization, pointing out that even the Asian "tigers" had periods of protectionism before they got to where they are now.

"But why should I answer this (your questions)? Other people are copying my ideas," Enrile complained. "One time I delivered a speech in Bacolod and soon (one senator) was mouthing it here in the Senate." As the lone oppositionist in the Senate and probably the most vocal one these days, Enrile's speeches have been expectedly pessimistic.

Because he is the minority, Enrile rarely files bills, his job being to use every chance to point out the administration's faults. He is nearly always the first to interpellate his colleagues and is known to cut into pieces colleagues unable to match him in debate.

Among his favorite themes have been how corruption, squabbling by members of the Aquino government, ill-advised decisions and inaction have created a political atmosphere that turns off domestic and foreign investment. "Our leaders who should be managing our national affairs are quarreling instead," he observed in his alternative State-of-the-Nation speech in August. And when the Executive does realize a problem, "we hear that it has been referred to a study committee," Enrile continued, or it is given "piecemeal or palliative" approaches.

One of the Aquino administration's biggest sins, he contended in a 1990 speech, is its failure to come up with a comprehensive program for energy sufficiency. The government has generally been willing to keep on covering recurring deficits on the Oil Price Stabilization Fund and has allowed the energy problem to "deteriorate to critical levels," instead of pursuing investments in the energy sector.

"Power, like water, is a basic need and must be the responsibility of government (not the private sector)" Enrile said, adding that problems in energy and communication may well prevent the attainment of rosy growth figures. Sources close to the senator say that Enrile is not against building nuclear power plants, if that is the most viable way of providing quick and reliable power to accelerate industrial development.

He said the next government ought to deal with the foreign debt burden "with more vigor," limiting debt-service payments "without in any way suggesting that we are reneging on our legitimate obligations." Enrile has ruled out declaring a repudiation or suspension of debt payments. "Our position is that it should be restructured, not merely rescheduled, so leaders can plan and implement development programs on a more precise, systematic and realistic basis," Enrile also said before the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Enrile also said that as president, he will take a direct hand in the talks with Philippine foreign creditors. It is too important a task to delegate to technocratic negotiators, he added. Instead, he would aim to reduce the burden of foreign debt service by personally asking creditors for better terms.

Enrile's speeches have been strongest on the government's keeping its financial house in order and allowing the private sector to set the pace of economic activity with government support. "Government intervention in private economic activities must be kept to the barest minimum," he told European businessmen. But it is a position that is difficult to reconcile with his other position calling for import and foreign-exchange controls and greater protectionism.

Also, "we (the opposition) are prepared to offer the best incentives that will place the Philippines at par with, if not at a higher level than, other investment areas in our part of the world," he continued. He would also continue the policy of exporting labor and reviving tourism as a generator of foreign exchange. Internally, the government should "maintain a high degree of monetary and fiscal discipline" in order to control the deficit that hounds it, Enrile said. Enrile, secretary general of the Nacionalista Party [NP], adds that the government must resist the temptation to allow "politically popular" but "fiscally unsound" expenditures.

A favorite tactic of his, during budget debates, is to compare the Aquino government budgets with Marcos' outlays and to cite the current administration's figures as proof of profligate spending—conveniently ignoring inflation.

Along with efforts to increase income from extermal and internal sources, Enrile wants the outflow of foreign exchange tightly regulated, especially through import restrictions on non-essential items. Enrile—who touts his experience as his most electable asset—has worn the hats of secretary of defense, finance, justice, customs commissioner and assemblyman. He is expected to go against Vice President Salvador Laurel for the NP nomination as presidential bet.

His supposedly immense wealth still a topic of speculation, Enrile has recently taken a high profile in his business interests. A few weeks back, he toured some newsmen in Republic Asahi's glass plant, in which he and former energy chief Geronimo Velasco have sizable stakes.

Enrile is a picture of confidence when asked about his chances in the electoral battles ahead. The political grapevine says Enrile has bought the paper and ink he will need to print sample ballots and other campaign materials and has ordered a helicopter that can travel even at night. He gives a knowing smile when asked to confirm all that.

Joseph Estrada

HK1004041591 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

["Transition 1992" by Johanna Son; second in a series]

[Text] Senator Joseph Estrada says he is eager to go back to being an "implementor" and carry out one bill that the Senate is yet to push through the legislative mill; limiting payments on the foreign debt.

Along with the foreign debt, Estrada, 53, sees industrialization and the improvement of the government's financial position as two other areas of the economy that he would give "immediate attention" to if he were President. "I admit," the college dropout who became senator says, "I'm not as effective as a legislator. Sa Executive tagaga ako [I am really for the Executive]" This is apparently why Estrada said on a talk show that "reelection to Congress would be boring."

Estrada has expressed impatience over the slow, deliberative work in Congress and shown little tolerance for debates characteristic of a collegial body's work. Much of his positions on issues are familiar, gleaned from policy gaps and areas of Executive neglect detected by senators.

Of the three areas of attention mentioned, Estrada has been most vocal against what he calls "domination" of the Phlippine economy by the United States and the International Monetary Fund-World Bank [WB], a recurring theme in his speeches. Recent hearings were held on the Economic Stabilization Program, which he had roundly denounced in a privilege speech, but he did not attend them. He proceeded to deliver a speech denouncing it anyway.

To questions asked of him recently, Estrada still talked tough but phrased his views more subtly: "The government must actively seek debt forgiveness and debt reduction through diplomacy." He sees a direct link between the servicing of the heavy $28-billion foreign debt and the resources that it sucks from what the Philippines would otherwise be able to use for itself. Specially, he explained, a huge chunk of the country's export earnings go to servicing the debt instead of laying the groundwork for industrialization.

Estrada bats for a calibrated strategy toward the foreign debt, to be pursued by the Executive. First, "Friendly countries should be asked to persuade creditor banks to give us more liberal repayment schemes," he says. Second, the Philippines must limit foreign-debt payments to 20% of export earnings—a formula long pushed by several legislators. The Senate itself passed a similar bill in 1988, but it remains in limbo in the House. Third, of the amount that Manila would pay to foreign creditors, the government must "give last priority" to servicing fraudulent loans such as those incurred in the Philippine nuclear power plant.

"Ang dapat nating bayaran, yun lang kaya natin [We only need to pay what we can afford] said Estrada, who once called Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao a "charming bitch" for "betraying the nation to the IMF.

Estrada says these initiatives ought to be pursued by the President, since they have been talked about for so long without action. There is only so much the Philippines can pay without continually foregoing crucial resources, Estrada says, so that no foreign creditor should "dictate" upon Manila. He is referring to, among others, the IMF-WB, which he habitually lumps together.

Estrada says the two institutions will continue to figure largely in the Philippine economy, but "the IMF-WB must respect our sovereignty, which includes the right to determine and define our economic and monetary policies." Again he turns to the U.S. calling on the Philippines to "diversify our sources of funds so that we will not be economically dependent on other countries."

Here at home, Estrada said, he would like to push for industrialization as a way to absorb excess labor and at the same time boost productivity. He stresses that one area vital to industralization is the development of a steel industry, the policy on which is being finalized by Congress. Filipino capital cannot at this point answer for the needs of industralization, so foreign investment is welcome to "supplement" Filipino capital and not to "supplant or displace them."

Estrada says that while the government has to live with budgetary deficits, it must ensure that money is spent on productive enterprises "to minimize the adverse effects" of such a deficit. Within funding constraints, Estrada says the government should spare education and health from budget cuts, and launch an honest-to-goodness campaign to whittle the bureaucracy.

Estrada—a Ten Outstanding Young Man awardee in Public Administration in 1972—says he would remind Filipinos to abide by the law, and after that grave warning, go after the "biggest tax evaders."

As expected, Estrada says the imposition of unpopular new taxes must be a last resort and imposed only on "those that have the capacity to pay to promote equity in taxation." He believes his managerial and administrative capability had paid off when he was mayor of San Juan for 17 years. Estrada proudly points out that he left P [Philippine pesos] 23.8 million in savings when he left the San Juan municipal hall in April 1986.

Parrying criticism that he did not have the "academic background or sophistication" to be President, Estrada says: "Those who say this conveniently close their biased eyes and minds to my experience, my achievements and my position on issues of national concern." "They," he declares, "are the ones who would limit the candidates for the presidency to glib-tongued holders of several degrees but lack the strength of character, sincerity and determination to challenge traditional concepts of leaderhsip."

Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco

HK1004062791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

["Transition 1992" by Redempto Anda; third in a series]

[Text] Among the presidential materials, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has the reputation of being a king-maker. He could also turn out to be one of the most serious contenders. He has the money and the power to push his bid. He also has the machinery, as well, cultivated by a culture of "bossi" that had characterized his term in power under the previous regime.

Danding, President Aquino's estranged cousin, is feared by his enemies and loved by his people. Ever since he slipped back into the country last year after joining the Marcoses in exile since 1986, he has spoken to only a few. His public appearances are largely in the remote areas of the country, far from media scrutiny.

He has, whether by design or otherwise, allowed his mafioso godfather image to linger by being far from the action but always around to be noticed. His reputation precedes him. He has helplessly stuck to the image of being a Marcos crony. But basketball fans, who comprise a huge slice of the population, know he is a hero to the country's most popular cagers. In some ways, that makes him one of the good guys.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], the ruling party that has become a melting pot of politicians of different streaks, has admitted that among its ranks are Danding supporters who ought to be booted out. That's how influential Danding has been. Rumors had it that even rival presidential candidate, Speaker Ramon Mitra, once a poor shoe-shine boy from Palawan, owed him big favors in his early years in politics.

Danding is adamantly protective of his reputation as an entrepreneur—as someone who asks no favors from friends in high places, including then President Marcos. "Whatever I own, I earned the old-fashioned way. I worked for every cent of it," he once declared. "There were men and women more powerful than I...who benefited more than I from the Marcos years...some of them, even now, are considered mainstays of this present regime. History and the next generation will judge them for what they are."

Tucked in his reputation was the initial success of the San Miguel conglomerate and the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). Along with it is the charge of being a monopolist, with his ubiquitous role in the coconut industry during the previous regime. The government has sequestered all his known properties. He has prepared a formidable legal evidence and hired a battery of top-notch counsels that make the best lawyers of the Philippine government look like bumbling undergrads.

Danding's views on crucial economic issues are simple. They are essentially anchored on his impartiality toward free enterprise. He believes, for example, in industrialization that is based on a strong agriculture. But in the same breath, he scoffs at land reform now being implemented by the government, saying it is nothing but a hindrance to growth and an affront to the basic human rights to own property.

The closest appreciation of land reform that he has made was in reference to his favoring the distribution of public lands to farmers who will farm them. The government's role is merely to provide adequate support services. Otherwise, he views land reform as nothing but redistribution of private lands under terms unfair to landowners. "A man has a right to own land, and the government has the obligation to preserve this opportunity for him. But not at the expense of others, not with the unjustified appropriation of land from those who developed it, not at the sacrifice of property rights which constitute the foundation for free and democratic society," he declared.

Industrialization, he says, should be spearheaded by small and medium-size business enterprises, not by the giant multinationals. He believes in the Filipino-first policy initiated by former president Carlos Garcia—a policy of giving Filipino entrepreneurs all the opportunities to succeed in business without antagonizing foreign investments. He supports selective trade barriers on imports to allow local industries to stabilize and for the country to establish new domestic export markets. "We will never succeed in international competition on an aggregate basis if we continue to let ourselves be a mere supplier of raw products," he adds. He has in mind the Filipino ingenuity, confidence and inventiveness as factors crucial to turning the economy around. "We cannot depend on foreign aid forever. We are fortunate to have friends help us out, but we must help ourselves."

How exactly this can be done, he has not articulated. But he strongly believes the economy can recover only if the problem of peace and order, in its larger sense, is solved. "People cannot live in fear of being killed by the communists, having their property confiscated by the government or not being able to afford basic food items," he said.

To solve insurgency, Cojuangco says he supports increased U.S. military aid to the armed forces, "but care must be taken that the money actually goes to the military."

"Many of our problems can be solved by honest-to-goodness hard work, a lot of common sense, a little imagination and a little bit of good luck," he said. But Cojuangco himself will need a little more talking to more people on who he really is and what he really wants to make his dream come true.

Ramon Mitra

HK1104043691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

["Transition 1992" by staff member Redempto Anda: "Mitra: Lean Government Will Spur Growth;" fourth in a series]

[Text] Poverty, to presidential aspirant Ramon Mitra, is at the root of the country's present crisis. A Mitra presidency will begin to solve the problem of poverty by streamlining the bureaucracy. The Palawan solon believes that an efficient government machinery is all that is needed to spur development and growth. Mitra, who last year launched his candidacy way ahead of other aspirants, is definitely going to make his bid for the highest executive post of the land, with a platform centered on trimming the bureaucracy and maintaining a cleaner, more efficient public sector work force.

"I propose to cut the bureaucracy in half. Its a stupid thing according to some, but that is the only way you can increase the pay of people in the bureaucracy," he said.

By providing higher salaries to rank-and-file government employees, he argues that the delivery of basic services, the government's primary function, will be improved. It also solves problems like red tape and petty graft.

Red tape, he complains has stunned economic growth. Citing the Bureau of Customs, he said that one would need 60 signatures before an imported item is released or a reimbursement for advanced tax payments is paid to an importer. In Indonesia, it takes only two weeks for investors to have their papers processed by the government, here it takes months, he said.

He adds that government workers resort to graft because of poverty. "I am not justifying it, but it is human nature once you have no other way to solve your problems."

To eradicate graft in the higher echelons of the bureaucracy, he says, the government must succeed in prosecuting a big fish "in an exemplary manner," with an impact similar to how the local drug trade went down after Marcos had placed a convicted Chinese drug dealer in front of a firing squad in the early years of martial law.

For Mitra, the formula of a lean bureaucracy is the key to economic growth. "I believe we can achieve 9%-10% growth if only the government reexamines more rigorously its economic and managerial strategies and concentrate on its delivery of basic social services," he declares.

If growth is to be achieved, he says, the government should refrain from competing with the private sector. He blames the increase of interest rates on the Central Bank's practice of mopping up excess liquidity by issuing Treasury bills.

"It competes with the scarce capital available. And as long as the government is competing, interest rates will go up. Once it stops competing for the use of local sources of capital, interest rates will go down automatically," he said.

He criticizes the Central Bank's persistance in reducing the money supply to combat inflation as something that tends to discourage investments. His counter-proposal tends to be a bit skewed, but he tries to make some sense of it.

"We should permit inflation to go up a little bit in order to allow private enterprise to have access to this increased liquidity. Then you will be able to spur investments a little bit," he offers.

To justify his argument, Mitra claims that the Philippines is a country most wanting in foreign investments in the entire Southeast Asia because it has the smallest savings (17%) as percentage of the country's gross national product.

And to be able to generate a million new jobs every year in order to absorb the increasing labor force, the country needs an annual investment of P250 billion [Philippine pesos] "Domestically, this investment will not come in. But foreign investments will also not come in if the situation is not favorable. That happens when you have a problem with your bureaucracy."

Mitra also believes that development should be focused on the countryside, if only to diffuse congestion of both population and talent in the urban centers.

One specific measure he has in mind is for the Central Bank to strictly implement an existing law requiring banks to invest a certain percentage of their deposits in areas where these are made, instead of funneling them all to their mother offices in Manila.

"The problem of the countryside is the hemorrhaging of funds necessary for its development. That is because the banks in the rural areas are reluctant to lend money, believing they are not as profitable as building condominiums and investing in low-risk projects."

By pressuring rural-based banks to lend out, they will be forced to lend to some of the small borrowers when they normally turn away, he says.

On agrarian reform, Mitra says the program needs to be "energized" owing to the growing resistance to it by landowners.

Mitra blamed poor implementation of the program, citing the government's failure to speed up the process of land acquisition and distribution, which in turn irked landowners who, at the outset, had feebly supported the program.

As a centerpiece social-justice agenda, Mitra also says that it should be agriculture, not only agrarian reform, which the government should promote.

Rather than concentrating on changing the pattern of land ownership, he said the government should also start building more rural infrastructure to develop the agricultural base.

Aquino 'Nene' Pimentel

HK1204080591 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 12 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

["Transition 1992" by staff member Johanna Son: "Nene Pushes Decentralization"; fifth in a series]

[Text] Senator Aquino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.'s economic agenda stands on the basic principle of decentralization, where, simply put, central government does not bite off more than it can chew.

Decentralization, under his formula, would be the frontline in a "three-pronged" attack against grinding poverty, which makes the Philippines an "inherently unstable" country.

Much of Pimentel's career has been associated with local governments, having been Cagayan de Oro City mayor, local governments secretary and sponsor of the autonomy law for Mindanao.

Pimentel, 57, is also tying his platform in 1992 to his sponsorship of the landmark Local Government Code in the Senate.

Pimentel's thesis is that decentralization, pursued in the short term, would spur countryside development in an urban-heavy economy.

"By developing power and resources, the national government empowers the local government units to service the needs of their constituencies and provide the basic infrastructure needed to attract all sorts of businesses," says Pimentel, head of the PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party—Strength of the Nation].

"In turn," he continues, "these busineses (would) create jobs for the teeming thousands of idle manpower in the countryside."

After decentralization as a shortterm step to curbing poverty, Pimentel would bat for modernization of agriculture in the medium term, and industrialization in the long term.

He is quick to advocate industrialization, not merely of the traditional type or "smokestack tribe" of industries, but by the "high-tech electronic tribe," quoting the author David Halberstam.

Economic Pie

Industralization, he claims, would increase the "economic pie" tremendously, create more jobs and prevent other countries from using the country as the dumping ground for their unwanted and mostly pollutive industries.

It is only "feasible" that the Philippines "open up" to foreign investments "in a more attractive manner than our competitors in Southeast Asia," especially in the areas of communications and sea transportation.

(His views on foreign investment have of late become more similar to those of Sen. Vicente Paterno, his seatmate in the Senate and also a PDP-Laban member.)

Once countryside activity has perked up, Pimentel says, the government must move to modernize agriculture and "unravel the threat of agrarian unrest" through land reform.

At the same time, he would encourage the cooperative movement and extend rational subsidies to farmers who help the country's agricultural exports.

Pimentel also hopes to inject more creativity into a nagging economic headache: the $28-billion foreign debt and the $3.5-billion debt service the Philippines pays yearly.

"I would want to see the question of debt tackled not merely as an economic issue but also as a political and social matter," he added.

Part of the reason why the Philippines has not been given drastic debt relief like Egypt and Poland is because it has not pushed hard enough for it, Pimentel observes.

He cites the positive reaction of Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, to his proposal for a "mineral resource-for-debt swap." "What is left to be done is for our debt negotiators to make the offer formally for IMF to consider," Pimentel says.

Tempering past anti-U.S. rhetoric (he saw the American bases' angle in the campaign against Philippine carrageenin) Pimentel has recently batted for "expanded trade" with the U.S. through a new bases treaty.

Pimentel also raised a few eyebrows when he began saying that the bases were "no longer a question of being pro or anti."

A recent statement said: "The important thing is whatever be the extension, there should be a quid pro quo to justify that."

Pimentel says he would go for persuasion, but failing that, would not hesitate to repudiate onerous loans. "If we are really pushed to the wall by economic necessity, we have to place a cap on the net-resource outflow (to creditors)."

Debt Condonation

He admits that other politicians have aired the same call for condonation but even the Aquino government has not been able to make good its word. "It has been done elsewhere. We can do it here," he insists.

Pimentel, a strident critic of past and present debt negotiators, also said he would create a permanent debt panel, headed by a diplomat, a lawyer, an economist and a "political practitioner" to attend to the political repercussions of economic decisions.

The government's money problems could be eased by cutting spending and imposing taxes on conspicuous consumption by the rich, he agrees, though aware of strong opposition to tax bills.

"If an oligarch wants to build a palace for P[Philippine pesos]50 million, let him do so. But tax him high so that will think 20 times before going ahead with it," Pimentel says.

He adds: "But if he puts his money into factories or busineses that will employ our people, by all means he should also enjoy tax benefits."

Emilio 'Lito' Osmena

HK1504034791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

["Transition 1992" by staff member Booma Cruz: "Osmena dreams of economic miracle;" sixth in a series]

[Text] The next President of the country, most of the presidential hopefuls agree, must be someone who can manage the nation's economy. The democratic institutions are now in place, but the country's economic problems make it look like a troubled Latin American republic in a region of Asian economic "tigers."

The island province of Cebu has tried to keep a distance between itself and the negative image of the rest of the country. It has launched an international advertising campaign tagging Cebu as just an island in the Pacific, with no reference to the Philippines.

While the rest of the country struggled with single-digit growth rates, Cebu was registering growth rates of over 20%. Cebuanos proudly point out their province has more things in common with the tiger economies of Southeast Asian than the rest of the Philippines.

But can the economic miracle in Cebu be duplicated on a national scale? Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmena is thinking of running in the 1992 presidential elections, on the premise that it can be done. Governor Osmena, often credited for the "Ceboom" economy, thinks all it takes is leadership and he is ready to provide it. The governor is the grandson of former president Sergio Osmena Sr., the second president of the Philippine Republic.

Osmena, 52, feels he is "equipped" for the task facing the presidency after 1992. He dreams of making the Philippines the next Asian tiger through a systematic, "nontraditional" and sometimes controversial approach of addressing the country's pressing economic problems.

If elected President, the governor plans to decentralize government, improvince the sourcing of funds, institutionalize a "genuine" free-market economy, lure foreign investors to the country and provide decent employment to millions of idle Filipinos—a "goal that is a solution in itself."

"If I accomplish nothing but full employment and good pay then I would have accomplished it all. The more jobs you create—the solution to almost everything, including insurgency and poverty—you create a bigger demand for work. Then there will be higher pay, and a better quality of life follows. Of course, we'll try to get these, but no at the expense of polluting our country or destroying our ecology," he says.

Osmena advocates an overhaul of the government's tax structure, saying consumption should be taxed and savings and capital formation encouraged.

"A real-estate developer before he was elected governor, Osmena wants government to use its power to generate more funds needed to get the country going.

"The government has tremendous power to generate money without taxing. It can always resort to value adding to land, like what I did in Cebu. If you declare an area an industrial zone, that's a lot of money. Then you build roads, water systems, communication—power goes in. Today in this world, nine out of every 10 new millionaires make it from real estate. The government has the best advantage in doing that," he adds.

Osmena has actually done what he is preaching in Cebu. He sold real estate owned by the local government to investors, entered into a "partnership" with the Ayalas and set up the Cebu Property Ventures, a semi-government venture that aims to develop the province into a "first world infrastructure state of development."

Osmena recently launched the Local Autonomy Movement to step up the campaign of local officials for increased decentralization of government functions and stronger local governments. The governor says the decentralization of government functions can entice more investors to the country.

"Danilo Deen, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce, shares the view of the governor. He claims that while Cebu local officials have been very supportive, national officials use government to block business. Deen says, the goverment's life seems to be revolving around Manila to the detriment of other provinces.

The privatization of government-owned and controlled corporations is another possible source of funds Osmena plans to tap. He says government must get out of areas where the private sector can do better.

"Osmena does not believe in land reform. He says the law "is not working" and "will never work," because "there is no room for tenancy in the civilized world." The governor proposes a change in strategy whereby government concentrates on productivity first and moves the country's demography from agriculture to services and manufacturing.

"Nations with the greatest number of hands dedicated to the production of food are the nations least capable of feeding themselves. The more hands you have in the production of food the less food you will have. So we must absorb the population and give them jobs in manufacturing and services and the result will be consolidation of land rather than subdivision and all these troubles."

The governor continues: "We must concentrate on areas where the return is best which is in the urban and not rural areas. We must draw our population where they can be more productive so we empty our farms and forests. This way we'll also have our ecological balance back.

"Let's use our competitive advantage and go into middle management and electronics. We can compete with any other nationality because we have the case to learn, which others don't have. Given the resources we can become the Silicon Valley of Asia," Osmena explains.

Like other conservative presidential hopefuls, Osmena will honor the commitment to repay the country's foreign debt. But he says government must not enter into one-sided agreements with international funding institutions like the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Miriam Defensor Santiago

HK1604133791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 16 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

["Transition 1992" by staff member Elizabeth Perez: "No One Can Stop Me—Miriam"; seventh in a series]

[Text] Metro Manila surveys indicate she is the presidential bet most likely to succeed. With that confidence, Miriam Defensor Santiago launched last Friday her People's Reform Party to support her bid.

She says only divine intervention can stop her from running and, hopefully, winning the 1992 presidential race.

"I have made my decision, and no force on earth can stop me," she says. "I will run the race to the finish, because this is the good fight."

Santiago, 45, remains unfazed by the fact that if elected, she will be stepping in the shoes of the country's first woman president, Corazon Aquino.

Credibility, not gender, will be the crucial factor in the forthcoming presidential contest, she insists. And credibility is the edge she enjoys over her political rivals. "People believe that I mean what I say," she says.

The economic reforms Santiago will implement if she wins are three-pronged: exports, foreign investments and tourism.

Foremost in her economic strategy is the development of export-oriented industries. "We must export, or die," she says.

Santiago vows to "drastically reform the orientation of the Philippine economy, from import substitution and manufacturing for the domestic market, to manufacturing for exports, including the processing of agricultural and extractive products."

She laments that the country has consistently lagged behind its Asean neighbors in terms of exports. In 1989, for example, Philippine exports amounted to only $7.8 billion, while Hong Kong raked in $73.1 billion; Taiwan, $65.9 billion; and South Korea, $63 billion, she says.

"If our exports had been on a par with any of our neighbors, we would not now be so debilitated by our foreign debt and our per capita income would be considerably higher than it is at present," Santiago says.

Looking ahead, she says the government must prepare for the next export boom by implementing measures that will keep or attract both domestic and foreign investors who are export-oriented. This will require such steps as improving our infrastructure, lowering interest rates for export industries, making power rates competitive and, in general, improving the climate for business.

More specifically, Santiago says she favors reviving tariff duties, such as those included in Executive Order 413, and exempting small and medium-scale industries from stiff registration requirements.

Secondly, Santiago plans to liberalize the investments' climate to bring in much-needed foreign exchange. Part of this strategy is to raise the ceiling on foreign equity from the present 40-60% to 49-51% in such industries as mining and manufacturing.

"In capital-intensive industries, 100% foreign equity may be allowed, provided the foreign owners divest to a 49% position after seven years," she adds.

Santiago also favors a 10-year extension of the Philippine-U.S. military bases agreement in exchange for the free entry of local goods into the U.S. market "without tariffs, without quota and on a preferential basis."

Lastly, she says she will develop the country's tourism industry into one of her centerpiece programs. This would include promoting such resorts as El Nido, Boracay and Dakak into world-class tourist spots to create jobs in rural areas.

Ironically, the Aquino government's much-touted centerpiece program, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp), would have to take the backseat if Santiago, who had a brief stint as secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform last year, becomes the next president.

"Carp won't work anymore, because we only have 2.5 million hectares (of farmlands) to divide among eight million farmers," she explains.

But Santiago is quick to point out that she won't neglect the agriculture sector and that her administration would in fact push for ruran industrialization.

Instead of focusing only on land reform, she sees the implementation of support services, both for the farmers and the landowners, as the key to rural development. Such support mechanisms would include the construction of irrigation canals and barrio roads, improved rural-credit facilities through government financial institutions, and fertilizer, pesticide and animal feed grants to be made available to farmers.

Santiago says she is against providing subsidies to any industry because they are "harmful and expensive" to the economy, in the same way that she is not in favor of protectionist tariffs, such as the controversial 9% import levy because these are "artificial props of the economy."

She espouses free enterprise, but says a "golden mean" or a delicate balance has to be struck between free trade and protectionism, determined by such factors as the value of the peso and the country's trade balance with each of its trading partners.

On the foreign debt, Santiago says she favors debt reduction through buy-back programs, debt payments' rescheduling and debt relief in exchange for the continued, albeit limited, stay of the American military facilities in the country.

"A hostile, contentious and insulting attitude towards our creditors would only be counter-productive," she adds.

Not suprisingly, Santiago also vows to continue her crusade against graft if she becomes President.

The first woman and the youngest-ever commissioner to head the Commission on Immigration and Deportation [CID] in 1988, Santiago quickly earned the reputation as a fearless graft buster, waging war against corrupt government employees, pedophiles and illegal aliens, and ultimately restoring credibility to the CID.

Should she become president, Santiago says she will design a productivity incentive scheme for notoriously corrupt government agencies and will "continue to crack the whip of strict discipline" on the bureaucracy.

Jovito Salonga

HK1804071491 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

["Transition 1992" by staff member Johanna Son: "Salonga Promises Clean Government"; eighth in a series]

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga, at 70, wants to be the country's president. He thinks he has the recipe for a progressive Philippines, the prescription for virtually everything that ails it.

If he lands the post, he says his government will be clean. "Honesty, integrity and incorruptibility in public office" will be its hallmark and the moral basis for an economic program beamed at self-reliance and steady progress.

For one, no kin of his will be allowed to do business with his government, he says. It will be a government that talks less and acts more. After all, "a good example is better than a hundred speeches."

He says he will consult more, reconcile more with the rebels who have served as a drag to growth, look after the poor more, and care more for the environment.

He envisions a free-market economy, a dragon not unlike those of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, which all posted high growth rates in the 1980s, when the Philippines was happy to just keep its head above water.

These countries, he says, "responded to global economic disturbances by making swift economic adjustments aimed at maintaining low inflation, a realistic exchange rate and manageable levels of fiscal expenditures."

This son of a Presbyterian minister and president of the Liberal Party [LP] was in the running in 1985, but gave way to now President Aquino, whose term ends next year.

She has said she's not seeking a second term. Salonga wants to succeed her—and so do many others. Each has his own view of how to steer the country to growth and prosperity.

Salonga wants a "social frame-work" where a strong private sector will be fostered, graft and corruption minimized if not eradicated, and smuggling and tax evasion checked. He wants excellence in education and work, and reconciliation with sectors which have thwarted the country's advance.

"There should be an opportunity for a dialogue (with the rebels) immediately after a leader is elected," Salonga says.

Palace-Congress ties will also be marked by "continuous consultation" to give legislators a sense of "participation" in national decisions.

President Aquino, he says, did not consult him—as head of the Commission on Appointments—on her choice of Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as armed forces chief of staff.

His party's draft economic program wants to see the poor rise from wretchedness. Salonga believes poverty exacts "psychological consequences," which makes "the poor lose their sense of self-worth, and they feel—not without reason—that they have become strangers in their own country."

He says Filipinos must have a sense of the welfare of future generations, and to this end must protect the environment. "We should have the political will to enforce the laws against pollution and a strong sense of outrage at their violation."

A former Nacionalista Party member, Salonga joined the LP in 1960 and became its president in 1985. He won as Rizal congressman in 1961, defeating the powerful Sumulongs. In 1987, he topped the senatorial race, the third time he was able to do so.

In October 1980, Salonga was ordered arrested by President Marcos and detained without charges. He later left for the U.S. and returned in January 1985 to help unify the opposition against Marcos.

Early into the Aquino administration, he was named to head the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Since becoming the Senate president, Salonga has adopted a policy of "cooperation but not subservience" to the Palace, which has not endeared him to the President. The Senate and Malacanang differ on how the bases treaty that is still being negotiated should be acted on. The Senate, the sole body empowered to ratify or reject the treaty, is perceived as anti-bases.

He comes across as statesmanlike to some and preachy to others, but Salonga is also a "shrewd" politician, colleagues say. He is, they observe, wary of offending fellow legislators, which explains why the chamber is not as quick in conducting an inquiry into Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's behavior during the 1989 coup.

Salonga has also been trying to turn the "age" factor against him into an asset. He is counting on the Filipino trait of respect for elders, and adds that danger lurks in leaders "who are not mature" and easily tempted by power and wealth.

Besides, "youth or old age is not a matter of time ... it is God that owns our lives," he says, adding that he had survived the Plaza Miranda bombing and many of his contemporaries. (One Salonga critic surmises that "he's too caught up in this destiny thing that he's destined for greater things.")

Salonga says he has no serious health problems. "That's what my doctor says, and I'm prepared to believe my doctor."

To drive home the point, Salonga's camp recently published in a newspaper a picture of him swimming in his Laguna pool.

Oscar Orbos

HK1804071791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

["Transition 1992" by staff member Lito Zulueta: "Orbos May Win Cory's Endorsement for '92;" ninth in a series]

[Text] He has consistently denied he is in contention for the 1992 polls, but people who know him take that with a grain of salt.

To them, Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos is a consummate politician, at home with words and psychology, one who can say yes and no at the same time.

Such perception stems from his being typecast as a traditional politician, but his relative youth, suave charm and ready smile have somehow softened it. Tradpol or not, Orbos is a welcome change to a system of stagnancy and tired old acts.

President Aquino says of her new chief of staff: "He's so young, so full of energy." That acclaim may yet reap for Obos the endorsement of the President in 1992. Malacanang observers believe Orbos is the President's pick. Only on Jan. 25, 1992, Mrs. Aquino's 59th birthday, will she make known who her candidate will be.

In the interim, the President has been sending Orbos to several flashpoints. He has also been monitoring development projects and resolving conflicts in her name. His trouble-shooting role has made him more visible, and such errands have been frequent.

At Malacanang, he is the "Little President," enjoying all the perks and privileges the office bestows. It is the best training ground for anybody who yearns for the top post of the land.

How would he fare as president? Since he himself denies any presidential ambition, reading what could have been his political and economic platform is impossible. Only his official acts now and those when he was a congressman and later secretary of transportation and communications could offer some hints.

He had said he is against an authoritarian leadership, which sits well with what Mrs. Aquino has stood for. He believes in a lean and efficient bureaucracy and his surgical streamlining of government attests to this.

He is perceived as an apostle of devolution, but has so far drawn criticisms for arrogating upon himself certain prerogatives and powers that some of the President's advisers once enjoyed.

A Malacanang official said that since Orbos is the new kid on the block, it is natural for him to draw powers from others to be able to know how things work at the Palace.

On economic matters, Orbos maintains that a free market, with the least government interference, is best for the country. As a congressman, he pushed for the "Kalakalan 20" law, which promotes entrepreneurship by relaxing laws on labor and investments among other things.

"We need investment inflows to generate opportunities for the country," he said. "I would agree to the removal of...constraints to allow for free flow of goods and services."

To this end, he wants reforms in the Board of Investments [BOI]. He complained of red tape in the BOI which he said is a disincentive to prospective investors.

The controversial 9% import levy was no less a disincentive, and he said it would be cut by as much as five percentage points by May. That drew a response from Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Mrs. Aquino who said the levy would be lifted only when Congress passes new tax measures to make up for the revenues that would be lost.

Incentives are what is needed, and Orbos is expected to work for realistic interest rates. On his first day as executive secretary, he met with Central Bank officials to find ways to keep the rates attractive enough for businessmen to borrow and invest.

As transportation and communications secretary, Orbos involved civic groups in traffic management and in the monitoring of infrastructure projects under the department. At the Presidential Action Center, Orbos also lined up several projects with civic groups, from price monitoring to free circumcision to adolescents taking their school vacation.

On the debt issue, he had time and again intimated that the country should negotiate to pay only what it could afford.

On the bases issue, Orbos, as head of the policymaking Presidential Committee on the Bases, wants a treaty extending the stay of the U.S. facilities. He may have also been responsible for the new warmth in the relations between Manila and Washington.

When the Gulf war broke out, Mrs. Aquino expressed support "without reservation" for the U.S.-led Allied offensive against Iraq. That gesture may be repeated if and when Orbos becomes president.

Orbos was once a seminarian and is married to an Opus Dei member. It may come as no surprise that he is against population control. "I take the position (that) in the final analysis the greatest resource of this country would be its people," he says.

He doesn't buy the standard economic thinking that a nation's economic growth can be dragged by too high a population growth rate. "There are still other levers we could pull to bring up economic development," he says. "If you are looking at controlling population just to bring in or stir up economic development, I would disagree to that."

His view squares well with the Catholic Church's. Last January, Jaime Cardinal Sin said Orbos is the right man to succeed Mrs. Aquino. Orbos was the first to downplay the Cardinal's remarks. "He (the prelate) gave my name as an example. I would like to take it as specific endorsement of a person for a particular position," he says.

But the Cardinal's remarks had only succeeded in making the question "Will Orbos run or not?" asked more often in various circles. Perhaps, it should come with another question: Does he covet the position?

Last February 2, five days after the Cardinal's remarks saw print, this reporter, working on another story, sought Orbos out in his favorite Ermita haunt.

Orbos was in the men's room changing his shirt for the speaking engagement. Done with the interview, this reporter turned to go. But Orbos stopped him.

The executive secretary, his tired eyes gazing intently, asked: "Tell me, honestly, what do you think about what the Cardinal said? Do you think I should run?"

Humbled by such a gesture, this writer replied, "You can run."

Come 1992, the people will see if that advice has been heeded.

Salvador Laurel

HK1904031891 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 19 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

["Transition 1992" by staff member Redempto Anda: "Laurel Calls For Fiscal Discipline"; 10th in a series]

[Text] After his political divorce with President Aquino following a short-lived partnership to topple the Marcos dictatorship, Vice President Salvador Laurel may have lost his only remaining chance to be president.

To his credit, Laurel was big enough to step aside to give way to Mrs Aquino, who evidently had a stronger chance to beat Marcos during the 1986 snap elections—a decision that should have increased his political stock had he decided to stick it out in the ruling camp.

Now under the umbrella of the opposition camp, Laurel is expected to continue his quest for the coveted presidency. But because the opposition has vowed to field a single candidate for the 1992 polls, he has to wrest the nomination from two other equally strong candidates—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Laurel's platform, particularly his views on the economy, does not differ much from other presidential aspirants. He believes the present bureaucracy is "top heavy, with corresponding increase in inefficiency," and should be trimmed in order to save the government of unnecessary expenses and to cut down the ballooning budget deficit.

"The Aquino government is now perceived to be the most inefficient, if not the most incompetent, administration in Philippine history," he declares.

Laurel, who has projected himself more as a fiscalizer than a vice president, sees everything in the Aquino administration as a bureaucracy in a shambles. "What we need is crisis management," he said.

In order to cure the country's ills, Laurel believes the government must succeed in two basic tasks: providing law and order, and implementing a "sound economic management."

He sees the problem of the energy sector as a crucial factor in any blueprint to revive the economy.

He proposes to ban all nonessential imports and ensure there will be enough foreign exchange to allow the country to meet its import requirements, particularly oil. "To a certain extent, the banking system is already doing this on its own. But this must be backed by official policy," he says.

He also wants the government to set an example in austerity and fiscal discipline by banning, for instance, the acquisition of new official cars.

Also to boost the energy sector as a catalyst for economic growth, Laurel is batting for the restoration of the Department of Energy "so that energy priority will never be again sidelined and so that long-term strategic, planning will be a continuing, instead of erratic, concern."

But the most crucial goal, he adds, is that of attaining self-sufficiency in food production. "No matter how numerous our goals, the central preoccupation of our policy should be to produce enough food, enough rice and fish, enough vegetables, enough nourishment especially for the young."

To achieve this, Laurel bats for the expansion of agricultural credit. He wants, for example, that some 1,000 rural banks that have become moribund be rehabilitated. He also bats for legislation that would require the banking system to allocate 25% of loan funds to agriculture.

On managing the country's external debt, he bats for rescheduling of payments' terms, with negotiators armed with a strong negotiating position of having "a credible plan to reduce and reverse trade nd budget deficits." Domestic debt, which constitutes two-thirds of the government's total debt burden, should also be negotiated with the domestic creditors for rescheduling, he proposed.

"The combined budgetary and public-sector deficit can be substantially reduced if the government should decide to try this approach," he said.

Fidel Ramos

HK2304072791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 22 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

["Transition 1992" by Manny Mogato: "Ramos To Continue Unfinished Reforms"; last in a series]

[Text] For Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, empowerment of the ordinary Filipino people is the sole engine for development and economic growth.

His own concept of empowering the ordinary Filipinos is giving the people of every province, city, town and barrio "control over their governments, their economics, their natural resources and their culture."

"Every development plan will fail for as long as we do not enlist the people's energies and talents to move this country forward," he says.

The former chief of staff of the armed forces did not only play a pivotal role in the restoration of constitutional democracy in the country in February 1986 but also stood behind the government in at least seven attempted military coups over the past five years.

But he believes that the Edsa [Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue] Revolt was an "unfinished business."

"It is by no means over, we are still in a transition period and the goals, the dreams that we were really hoping would come about at tnat time, within a short time, have not yet taken place," he told a group of military wives in one of his speaking engagements. "So, some of us must continue to carry on, and that's the way I see my role."

Ramos' agenda for 1992 goes beyond his sense of duty to continue and finish off what the Aquino administration had started. Tying his political and economic platform in 1992 to "People Power," he wants to mobilize the ordinary people, once again, to free the country, not just from the dictatorship, but this time from the bounds of poverty.

He innovated an administration formula, which he labelled the "three Ds" of democracy in order "to create greater initiative and provide more resources and authority to all public servants in the field."

His first "D" stands for decentralization. He supports the League of Governors and other local executives in their call for the early passage of the Local Government Code, sponsored by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., which would grant greater authonomy to local government units.

The government is over-centralized in Manila, he says, which has inevitably resulted in an uneven development, overpopulation and veritable breakdown of social services in Metro Manila and other key cities.

Over the past five years, he observed, only 12 provinces out of the country's 73 provinces have experienced economic growth. "The others are a deficit community and with little hope of improving their lot."

"If local communities are to have power over their own lives, they must be allowed to consolidate, use and develop their own resources," he explains. "It is local autonomy that maintains the virtue of keeping government unitary while giving more room and more scope for local communities to flourish.

The second "D" stands for devolution, which is really delegating more authority and responsibility to people in the field, to people who are right there on the job."

All democracies stand on the ideal of "government by the people, of the people, and for the people," but in practice, even democracies all too often leave people little room to control their lives and their government, he says.

His third "D" stands for deregulation, which he believes is the most important in terms of overall government activity.

"Making democracy work in our county is making the machinery of government function as efficiently as possible," he says. A huge bureaucracy, according to him, institutionalizes inefficiency and corruption.

"We need to simplify and professionalize our civil service—by freeing it from the influence of political patronage, safeguarding its political neutrality and restoring it to the meritocracy," he says.

The three-D formula is the centerpiece of Ramos' immediate approach to wipe out poverty and propel the engine for economic growth and development.

His medium and long-term solutions were focused on the immediate modernization of the country's agriculture and development of the indigenous industries and heavy investment in human-resources development "in order to upgrade the level of scientific and technological education of our people."

"I have come to believe that our most urgent economic priority should really be to modernize Philippine agriculture—on which the great majority of our people still depends for jobs and incomes—as the foundation of our industrialization," he says.

His concept of modernizing the agricultural sector does not mean merely achieving higher yields and self-sufficiency for rice and corn, but diversification into new-style cash crops like coffee, soy beans, potatoes, tropical fruits and cut flowers; industrial raw materials like falcata and rubber trees, abaca, and palm oil; and the husbandry of cattle and other meat products.

"Only by doing so will our economy be able to absorb more workhands, raise nutritional levels, lower income disparities and raise demands for industrial products," he explains.

He also encourages every linkage between agriculture and industry to develop indigenously based industrial activities and move away from import-dependent enterprises.

"There has been little integration with what the country can itself produce; or, put differently, there has been little effort to produce indigenously the requirements of our industries," he points out.

He says the scheme would increase foreign-exchange earnings and reduce our trade deficit as nontraditional exports of small and medium-scale enterprise would be expanded, especially those that are potential dollar earners.

But the basic step in empowering the farmers and the rural people is a genuine land-reform program, which must be guided by practical considerations, not by ideological fanaticism. "We will achieve nothing by turning land reform into a class war," he adds.

"Our long-term goal, however, should be to invest heavily on human-resources development in order to upgrade the level of scientific and technological education of our people," he says. "The center of our development efforts should be our greatest resource—our people."

He says work programs should be anchored on a scientifically and technologically oriented labor force, particularly in the fields of electronics, metal engineering, computer science, and instrumentation and controls.

Filipino labor, Ramos points out, "is very much prized in the international market, thanks to our proven overseas workers." Filipino managerial and entrepreneurial talents "is no slouch either."

The government's role in all these developments, Ramos believes, "must be to help people help themselves."

"Private sector will remain and even be the sole engine for development and change. It spurs the momentum of economic efforts by pioneering in business and industrial enterprise, and absorbing gainful employment that will make our people a great resource of our country's modernization."

Thailand

King Lifts Martial Law 'in Certain Areas'

BK0205123991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 2 May 91

[Announcement by His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, countersigned by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, in Bangkok on 2 May—read by announcer]

[Text] His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has ordered that it be announced that persuant to the announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council imposing martial law throughout the Kingdom to maintain peace for the benefit of the people from 1130 on 23 February 1991, the present situation in some areas has made it no longer necessary to apply the law. Empowered by Article 5 of the 1914 Martial Law Act, he orders that martial law be lifted in certain areas and retained in some areas, as follows:

1. Martial law is to be discontinued in all areas of the country, excluding the areas noted in item 2;

2. Martial law is to be retained in the following areas:
   1) Kanchanaburi Province—only in Muang, Thong Pha Phum, Saiyok, Sisawat, and Sangkhlaburi Districts;
   2) Chanthaburi Province—only in Pong Nam Ron and Makham Districts;
   3) Chiang Rai Province—only in Chiang Khong, Chiang Saen, Thoeng, Mae Chan, and Mae Sai Districts and in Wiang Kaen Subdistricts;
   4) Chiang Mai Province—only in Chiang Dao, Fang, and Mae Ai Districts and in Wiang Haeng Subdistrict;
   5) Trat Province—all districts;
   6) Tak Province—only in Tha Song Yang, Phopphra, Mae Ramat, Mae Set, and Umphang Districts;
   7) Narathiwat Province—only in Chanae, Rangae, Waeng, Sisakhon, and Sukhirin Districts;
   8) Nan Province—only in Chiang Klang, Thung Chang, Na Noi, Pua, Mae Charim, and Wiang Sa Districts and in Bo Klua and Santisuk Subdistricts;

9) Buriram Province—only in Ban Kruat and Lahansai Districts;
10) Prachin Buri Province—only in Khlong Hat, Ta Phraya, Wang Nam Yen, Watthanakhon, and Aranyaprathet Districts;
11) Phayao Province—only in Chiang Kham District;
12) Phitsanulok Province—only in Chat Trakan and Nakhon Thai Districts;
13) Mae Hong Son Province—all districts;
14) Yala Province—only in Than To, Betong, Bannang Sata, and Yaha Districts;
15) Loei Province—only in Chiang Khan, Dan Sai, Tha Li, Na Haeo, and Phu Rua Districts;
16) Sisaket Province—only in Khukhan, Khun Han, and Kantharalak Districts;
17) Songkhla Province—only in Na Thawi, Sadao, and Saba Yoi Districts;
18) Satun Province—only in Muang District;
19) Surin Province—only in Kap Choeng, Buachet, Prasat, and Sangkha Districts;
20) Uttaradit Province—only in Nam Pat and Fak Tha Districts;
21) Ubon Ratchathani—only in Khemmarat, Khong Chiam, Chanuman, Na Chaluai, Nam Yun, Buntharik, and Phibun Mangsahan Districts;

This is effective from 3 May 1991.
Announced on 2 May 1991.
Countersigned by Anan Panyarachun, prime minister.

THE NATION Critical of Law

BK0205011591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 May 91 p A8

[Text] Martial law, imposed by the military junta a few hours after it seized power on Feb 23, is due to be lifted today. This is no cause for celebration. It's no more than returning legitimate basic rights back to where they belong, namely to the people. The National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] in fact owes the public apologies, to put it mildly, for "inconveniences" caused to them as a whole.

The military leaders and quite a few observers have said that the Thai people were in no way affected by the imposition of martial law. Some of them even suggested that it has been so benevolent and harmless that this state of affairs should be labelled a "law of love" instead of martial law. It has also been argued that martial law has not threatened the freedom of expression of the people. The powers-that-be have told us that the Press has been operating in a free atmosphere *even* under martial law.

We know what all these statements were supposed to mean, but we can't possibly go along with this sort of twisted logic. Imposition of martial law is contrary to every definition of democracy. It is defensible only during national emergencies. To say that the Thai people shouldn't complain about its existence and that Thai martial law is a different species altogether is unacceptable. Infringement of human rights and freedom of movement and expression are an integral part of martial law—whether they are imposed or not. A criminal is not placed in a more favourable light because he points a gun at another person promising not to pull the trigger. The threat to commit a crime is not made more acceptable simply because it is not carried out.

Still, the lifting of martial law today is a welcome move. But let's not lose sight of the fact that absolute, arbitrary powers remain within the hands of the military leaders and the prime minister in the form of Article 27 of the interim constitution. This document ignores due process of justice by conferring on the NPKC leader and the prime minister the authority to punish anybody on all-embracing grounds.

The military leaders also continue to enjoy almost unlimited powers in the "national peacekeeping act" for "security reasons" which, again, are open to a wide range of ambiguous and arbitrary interpretations.

These laws, which obviously run counter to the democratic process, must come under review as we sit down to draw up a new constitution and launch yet another attempt at moving this country towards democracy.

The lifting of martial law will certainly improve Thailand's image abroad. It should underscore this government's firm pledge to put the country back on the path of democracy as soon as possible.

But that's only the beginning—a move in the right direction. There is still a long way to go before the Thai people can be fully persuaded that the process will not be interrupted again for one excuse or another.

Air Force Chief on NPKC, Interim Government

BK0205020791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 May 91 p 3

[Text] Air Force Chief Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday the interim government and the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] will be dissolved when an elected administration is installed.

ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset, who is No. 2 in the NPKC, said the interim constitution clearly states this in a provision about the timing of an election.

He denied the 35-million-baht budget allocated in the next fiscal budget is aimed at supporting the NPKC extending its role.

The budget had been allocated to salaries for personnel and to cover its administrative costs, he said.

Use of Article 301 Not Seen as Serious Threat

BK0205101991 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 2 May 91 p 4

[From the "Persons on Frontline" column by Laksi Bangkhen]

[Text] It turns out that Thailand is laughing at Article 301, which the United States hopes to use against Thailand, because no one is taking the threat by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills seriously. Thailand stands to lose only 5 billion baht, while the EC, the Middle East, and Japan continue to be markets that can still accept many more Thai exports. Therefore, support must be given to the Thai Government not to back down from its confrontation with the United States. Although Thailand is a small country, it is sincere toward its big friend, and it is not so weak as to allow itself to be enslaved by the United States.

Trade Surplus With U.S. Down Sharply

BK0205023191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 May 91 p 17

[Excerpts] Thailand registered a surplus of 1,400 million baht in its trade with the United States during the first quarter this year, down from 2,433 million baht in the same period last year.

The exports to the US in the first quarter were worth 19,372 million baht, up from 17,687 million baht in the same period last year, while imports amounted to 17,974 million baht, up from 15,244 million baht.

A Bank of Thailand official said the US was still the country's largest export market taking 22-23 percent of total shipments. [passage omitted]

Thailand registered a trade deficit of 29,618 million baht in its trade with Japan during the first quarter, up from 22,391 million baht in the same period last year.

Trade with the EC went from a deficit of 137 million baht to a surplus of 5,697 million baht. This was mainly due to a sharp increase in the value of exports, from 16,689 million baht to 24,629 million baht, while the value of imports rose only slightly, from 16,826 million baht to 18,932 million baht.

The country is projected to record an overall trade deficit of 280,000 million baht this year.

Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit said the central bank hoped to keep the inflation rate below 6.5 percent in order to help increase exporters' competitiveness.

The recent further easing of foreign-exchange controls would also help encourage Thai investors to expand their production overseas and develop new export markets, he said.

Kaifu Departs; Anan Comments on Visit

BK0205075091 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] At 0930 today, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, Cabinet members, government officials, and military and police officers were present at the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters Airport, Don Muang, to see off Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, his wife, and party, following their official visit to Thailand from 30 April to 2 May.

At 0945, Kaifu and his wife arrived at Don Muang Airport. Prime Minister Anan accompanied them into the special VIP room of the airport. The Thai prime minister then escorted the Japanese premier to review the honor guard. The prime minister escorted Kaifu and his wife to board a special Japan Airlines flight.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu, his wife, and entourage departed from Thailand at 1000 sharp for their official visit to Singapore.

After seeing Kaifu and his party off, Anan granted an interview to reporters saying that the announcement on lifting martial law is expected to be made by tonight. He also remarked on Thai-Japanese relations.

[Begin recording] [Anan] There should be an announcement [lifting martial law] tonight.

[Reporter] Will it be tonight definitely?

[Anan] I don't know. Let me check something first. Anyway, it is likely that it will be announced tonight.

[Reporter] Are you excited to [word indistinct]?

[Anan] No.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the work you have done?

[Anan] It is a matter of working day by day .

[Reporter] Are you satisfied with your work?

[Anan] I beg your pardon.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied? Is there any thing you feel like doing more?

[Anan] Well, the question of satisfaction or not is up to reporters and the public, but we have been trying our best.

[Reporter] What do you want very much to do for the people?

[Anan] We have set many targets and are trying to carry them out step by step.

[Reporter] Is there any problem that worries you?

[Anan] No, nothing.

[Reporter] Have you received good cooperation from government agencies?

[Anan] Yes, very good cooperation from all parties.

[Reporter] How about the result of your meeting with the Japanese prime minister?

[Anan] It is good, because it is the first time that he has paid an official visit to Thailand. He confirmed maintaining close relations between Thailand and Japan and assured that Japanese assistance to Thailand will be unchanged. Japan's loan to be given to Thailand this year will be no less than that of last year. He also invited me to visit Japan. [end recording]

Anan Confirms Japanese Low-Interest Loan

BK0205025491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The Thai prime minister has confirmed that the Japanese Government has agreed to give a low-interest loan to Thailand this year for an amount no less than the previous one for use in the country's development.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun briefed reporters on the matter yesterday evening as follows:

[Begin recording] [Anan] The Japanese Government will give us a low-interest loan in yen currency in an amount no less than that of last year. Last year's loan, I guess, was about 8 billion yen, which would be—I don't know how much yen is now—equivalent to approximately 9 billion baht or how much I just couldn't remember.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Anan] It will be the type of loan with a very low interest rate. The total amount of the 16th yen loan will be no less than the 15th. [end recording]

History of Relations With Japan Reviewed

BK0105122691 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[From the "News in Perspective" program: "Thai-Japanese Relations"]

[Text] Historical evidence shows that Thailand and Japan have been in contact with each other for more than 600 years. The first recorded official contact between the two countries could be traced back to 1606 when King Ekathotsarot of the Ayutthaya period and Shogun Tokugawa exchanged diplomatic notes. Later, there were a number of contacts, basically in the form of trade. About 100 years ago, during the reign of King Chulalongkon and Emperor Meiji, the historic declaration of amity and commerce between Thailand, then Siam, and Japan were signed in Tokyo to mark the official commencement of the Thai-Japanese relations. Thailand consequently became the first Asian country to have established diplomatic relations with Japan. Since then, the Thai-Japanese ties have grown both stronger and closer. Furthermore, the friendship and mutual understanding of both countries have been magnified by their respect for common Buddhist principles as well as affection to their respective royal families.

On economic relations, Japan's investments in Thailand started to rise substantially in 1957 with Thailand importing a large volume of industrial products from Japan. Since 1967 onwards, Japan has become Thailand's biggest trading partner. Thailand has suffered trade deficits with Japan since 1954. Balance of trade between the two countries was characterized by a chronic surplus in the Japanese side between 1983 and 1984. Thailand, therefore, proposed a white paper in 1984 as a guideline for restructuring the Thai-Japanese economic relations and improving the trade imbalances. The two countries have so far held two rounds of talks of the restructuring of their economic ties. As the world's and Thailand's economic situation has changed rapidly, the Thai side has introduced a new white paper and proposed that the 3d round of talks on the issue be held within this year. According to the Office of the Thai Commercial Counselor in Tokyo, Thailand's trade deficit with Japan rose from U.S. $830.3 million in 1987 to U.S. $3,208 million in 1989. Major Thai exports to Japan include primary products, food items, and raw material. Thailand mainly imports machinery, auto parts, and electrical appliances from Japan. The Japanese Government has provided technical assistance to many development projects in Thailand as well as grant aid and soft loans.

On cultural relations, Japan has been sponsoring the ship for Southeast Asian youth program, which invites a number of youth from Japan and ASEAN countries on board every year to travel in the region. The program has been successful in promoting friendship among the young people taking part. The National Youth Bureau is the local organizer for Thailand.

Japan's active role in maintaining stability and security in Asia and the Pacific has been closely watched by many countries in the region including Thailand. Its participation in the Cambodian peace process and support for United Nations peacekeeping operations are among examples showing that Japan intends to strengthen its cooperation for peace efforts.

The current visit to Thailand by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu marks the start of dialogue between the Japanese Government and the interim government led by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. Policy coordination between the two countries will be reviewed and the maintenance and development of traditional Thai-Japan relations will be confirmed.

May Day Activities Held Amid Tight Security

BK0205021991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 May 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Official May Day celebrations passed without much fanfare yeserday with a far smaller number of workers turning up than in past years.

The event was held amid tight security at the Thai-Japanese Sports complex in Din Daeng. More than 1,000 uniformed or plainclothes policemen were deployed at the venue, which had been switched from the traditional Sanam Luang.

State enterprise workers, who formed the core of labour movements, were banned from joining the celebration under the new State Enterprise Employees' Relations Act which disbands their unions.

Other private labour groups announced they would boycott the Din Daeng celebration, which was chaired at its opening ceremony by Deputy Interior Minister Wichet Karunyawanit.

Key leaders of state enterprise workers held a separate meeting at the Royal Hotel yesterday to mark the event but were under the close watch of a large number of plainclothes policemen and military intelligence agents.

About 50 workers from Samut Prakan rallied briefly in front of the Interior Ministry to demand a fairer labour law for workers.

The workers also demanded that the Government revise the law to take action against employers who try to stop workers from forming unions.

They also demanded an annual minimum wage increase of 15 percent starting from October 1.

About 20 employees of the Government Savings Bank, in apparent defiance of the new State Enterprise Employees' Relations Act, gathered at the Democracy Monument.

They later moved to the Royal Hotel where they declared to turn their union into an association. A large number of plainclothes police, Special Branch police and military intelligence officers were spotted at the hotel monitoring them.

Acting president of the National Congress of Thai Labour Banchong Porunpatnanikorm, chairman of the organising committee of the Din Daeng celebrations, claimed earlier in the morning that 20,000 to 30,000 workers were expected to join the event. However, only about 5,000 workers from private factories turned up. [passage omitted]

Columnist Looks at State of Relations With SRV

BK0105034591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 May 91 p A10

[Article by Kulachada Chaipipat: "Thai-Vietnamese Ties on an Optimistic Note"]

[Text] Thai-Vietnamese relations can now be seen to be taking an upswing since last week's discussion between Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai and senior Thai officials including Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa.

Previously ties between the two countries were stagnated due to certain "domestic developments" in both countries.

The Feb 23 coup that toppled the Chatchai administration at first cast doubts over the course of Thai-Vietnam relations. The coup killed the chance of having a Thai-Vietnamese summit early this year after it was postponed on two occasions since last November.

The coup led to a sudden cancellation of a planned visit to Hanoi scheduled for Athit Urairat, foreign minister in the Chatchai government.

Hanoi has been perplexed by the political changes in Thailand in the past several months and at the same time ambiguous in its response toward Bangkok.

Vietnamese leaders however maintain that the military coup was an internal matter that they hope would not affect the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The recent meeting between Le Mai and the senior Thai officials gave them the first opportunity since February to clear the air over whatever anxieties that had arisen from domestic developments. At the same time, both sides also had the chance to make known their intentions of pursuing a similar policy of forging closer ties.

Now it seems that the Thai-Vietnam summit will be postponed to later this year after both countries set up a joint commission to promote bilateral relations.

Officials from the Foreign Ministry, who have been monitoring Thai-Vietnamese relations, admitted that the coup did disrupt preparations for the summit but maintained that Thailand's policy toward Vietnam remained unchanged. The officials said preparations will now be intensified since the idea of the summit has been revived.

Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Witthaya told Le Mai during last week that the Anan government would increase consultations with Hanoi and broaden the bilateral ties.

Thais allayed Hanoi's fears that the interim government installed by the military was not keen to pursue the Chatchai government's policy of turning "the battlefield in Indochina into a marketplace."

Witthaya reaffirmed that the government's foreign policy will continue to give emphasis on neighbouring countries which include countries in Indochina and Burma. Vietnam ranks third in the overall priorities after Laos and Burma.

In that sense, Witthaya made it clear that Thailand was not in a particular rush to have the summit and wanted more time to make preparations so as to ensure the success of this historic event.

"We do not want to have a symbolic summit or having the meeting just for public relations purposes because we want to strive for something very concrete," he said.

Witthaya added that Thailand would also want to wait to see whether there would be changes among Vietnam's top echelon after its June party congress. After that according to Witthaya, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin would visit Hanoi.

At present, the Thai government's position seems acceptable to Hanoi which understandably feels more comfortable in having the summit after the party congress when Hanoi's future guidelines would be clearer.

Le Mai explained that Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi was willing to take part in the summit in Thailand as soon as possible but his preparations for the party's congress had prevented him from doing so.

The summit would come after both countries have identified priority areas for cooperation and at the same time begin to implement bilateral agreements to boost their ties, which through the period of time have became quite complicated.

During last week's discussion, both sides have agreed to set up a joint commission as a mechanism to regulate and streamline their relations with regard to trade and economic matters. This joint commission agreement is expected to be signed during Asa's visit to Hanoi. (Thailand and Vietnam signed an agreement in 1978 on trade and economic cooperation, but it was never implemented, largely because of the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in late 1978.)

Besides other draft agreements on bilateral ties, the Thai side has submitted for Hanoi's consideration two more agreements on investment protection and promotion, and the avoidance of double taxation.

"We should start from the easiest issue first before moving on to more complicated issues," Witthaya said.

But teething problems on the two draft agreements on investment protection and double taxation avoidance have already surfaced.

Le Mai said a delay in presenting Thailand with a counter draft agreement on investment protection and promotion was due to some technical problems in Hanoi.

He explained that there were many elements in the proposed agreement that were not consistent with existing laws and regulations in Vietnam, and Hanoi needed time to sort them out before presenting its draft agreement to Bangkok.

To continue with economic reforms, Vietnam needs legal infrastructure, especially domestic and international commercial laws to facilitate the market-oriented economy, Le Mai pointed out. In addition, he noted that differences over the two countries' bureaucratic systems also played a part in delaying the decision-making process.

He said the Vietnamese side mistook Thailand's Board of Investment (BoI) as the main official organization to negotiate on the agreement like Vietnam's BoI.

In the case of Thailand, Le Mai found that the Thai Foreign Ministry takes charge of negotiating the agreement due to legal implications, but the ministry still relies and acts on BoI's recommendations.

Another issue both countries agreed to work on is the future demarcation of their territorial waters in the South China Sea.

The Thai officials explained that so far Thailand and Vietnam used different legal basis for determining their maritime territory making it very difficult for them to verify their claims over the vast territorial waters.

They said the demarcation over the continental shelves between the two countries is crucial and is considered as a prerequisite before both sides embarked on discussions on the joint exploration of oil and gas. Otherwise, the efforts would be marred by territorial disputes.

During the previous administration, Bangkok and Hanoi agreed in principle to explore gas and oil resources in the overlapping territorial waters, using the agreement Thailand has with Malaysia under the so-called Joint Development Area [JDA] as a model. Under the JDA, Thailand and Malaysia have agreed to develop petroleum resources and share the benefits.

Both Thailand and Vietnam also agreed to accelerate their pending negotiations on a joint fishing agreement which would eventually lead to the settlement of fishing problems. Thai trawlers and fishermen are often arrested for encroaching into Vietnam's waters.

"Compared to the past, we are much clearer now in the course of our relations between Thailand with Vietnam," said one of the Thai officials.

Vietnam now has every reason to feel comfortable in its relations with Thailand, after Bangkok made it clear that the policy of turning "battlefield into a marketplace" would still continue.

The ball however lies in the court of Vietnam, and in the end it would depend very much on the outcome of the June party congress in Hanoi. Till then, Thailand has not given any specific time-frame when the agreements with Vietnam should be signed, but Thai officials have expressed hope that the Vietnamese would stay in a responsive frame of mind.

As it stands now, Thai-Vietnamese relations have been put once again on an optimistic footing.

Vietnam

Former U.S. Special Envoy, Others Arrive

BK0105150091 Hanoi VNA in English 1336 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 1—Mr. Leonard Woodcock, former special envoy of former president J. Carter on Vietnam, now advisor to the ATC Industry Corporation, and his wife, began a visit to Vietnam from April 27, 1991.

With Mr. Woodcock are Mr. Paul Speltz, president of the ATC Corporation, and his wife, and Mr. Francis Hawke, vice president of Citibank.

The guests held talks with Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

The two sides exchanged views on relations between Vietnam and the United States, and issues of common concern. The American guests also worked with the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, and the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Heavy Industry, and Justice. They also had working sessions with the Vietnam State Bank, the Vietnam General Department of Civil Aviation, and the general department of oil and natural gas.

The guests were acquainted with the achievements of renovation and economic development in Vietnam, and expressed the wish of the ATC and Citibank to establish economic cooperation with Vietnam soon.

Today the American guests left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh and Hue cities.

DPRK Vice President Meets Nguyen Van Linh

BK0105095791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 30 April, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Comrade Nguyen Van Linh received Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, vice president of the DPRK, and head of the DPRK Government delegation now on an official friendship visit to Vietnam, and members of his delegation.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok solemnly conveyed to Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh a letter, gifts, and warm regards from Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committe. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh asked Vice President Yi Chong-ok to convey his heartfelt thanks to Comrade General Secretary Kim Il-song for his precious sentiments. He expressed his joy over the successes recorded by the Korean people over the past 40 years and more. He wished the Korean people many new achievements in socialist construction under the WPK leadership headed by esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh pointed out that there are many similarities between Vietnam and Korea and that the Vietnamese people deepy understand and fully support the peace initiatives aimed at peacefully reunifying Korea. He was convinced that the Korean people's just cause will certainly prevail because it conforms to the aspirations of the people of North and South Korea and to the trend of history.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh stressed: The Vietnamese party, government, and people will continue to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries in the interests of each people.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh wished the DPRK delegation fine success in its current visit.

Received by Adviser Pham Van Dong

BK0105143891 Hanoi VNA in English 1339 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 1—Pham Van Dong, advisor to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here today Li Chong-ok, vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), now an official visit to Vietnam.

The advisor welcomed the visit, which, he said, has brought to the Vietnamese people great encouragement and friendly sentiments from the Korean people. He said he was pleased at new steps of development in the cooperation and friendehip between the two parties, states, and peoples.

For his part, Vice President Li Chong-ok affirmed that the traditional relations between the two countries founded by the late president Ho Chi Minh and President Kim Il-Song would be constantly consolidated and strengthened.

Also present at the reception was Korean Ambassador to Vietnam Yi Hong.

Communique on Do Muoi Upcoming Visit to USSR

BK0205102291 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Do Muoi, Political Bureau Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in the near future.

The communique issued by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on Thursday said: The visit will be made at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Communist Party Delegation Visits Lenin Monument

BK0105095391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] On the 121st birth anniversary of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, 22 April 1870 - 22 April 1991, a Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee delegation led by Pham The Duyet, secretary of the party Central Committee on 22 April visited and laid a wreath at the Lenin Monument to commemorate the birthday of the great leader and master of the working and laboring classes in the world—the leader who brilliantly brought Marxism-Leninism into full play in the new revolutionary stage and who made it a doctrine recognized by people all over the world. For the Vietnamese revolutionaries and people this doctrine is a compass illuminating the path towards their final victory in building socialism and communism as taught by President Ho Chi Minh.

This is the occasion for the CPV and the Vietnamese people to express their faithfulness to the socialist path chosen by their nation under the influence of great Lenin.

On the same day, a delegation from the Soviet Embassy and Soviet specialists working in Vietnam led by Soviet Ambassador Khamidulin also visited and laid wreaths at the Lenin Momument.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Malaysian Economists

BK0105152291 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] From 22 to 27 April, a group of Malaysian economists led by Dr. K. Z. Abdul Kadir visited and exchanged experiences with Vietnam in financial and banking management and investment cooperation.

The group held many working sessions and directly exchanged experiences in the management of financial and banking activities and investment cooperation with the comrade leaders and economists of the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Vietnam State Bank, and the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment.

On 27 April, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received and held formal talks with the group.

Border Checkpoint With PRC Inaugurated

BK0105100991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] The Hoang Lien Son Customs Service has just inaugurated the Van Hoa Checkpoint at the Kieu Bridge on the SRV-Sino border.

People have recently been trading along the border river, so establishing a checkpoint to collect import-export tax is a necessity to increase revenue for the local administation.

In the past, the Hoang Lien Son Customs Service has collected hundreds of millions of dong for the national budget, and has arrested and fined many smugglers for illegally transporting state-controlled goods such as nonferrous metals, precious stones, and scarce materials across the border.

In the first quarter, the Van Hoa Checkpoint collected 130 million dong, and made arrests in 10 cases including two on drug trafficking. They have also confiscated one pistol, hundreds of kilos of nickel and copper, and 821 grams of precious stones.

Due to proper control and tight patrols against illegal trading, trading, and traveling along the border have been orderly and the import-export tax collection has been more effective.

On this occasion, Comrade Truong Quang Duoc, director of the Customs Service, paid a working visit to the Hoang Lien Son Customs Service, with its young, active, diligent, and well trained cadres. They have been recognized as a good unit in the customs service.

Dao Duy Tung Attends Fatherland Front Meeting

BK0105051291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] On 17-18 April, the party organization of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee held a conference to exchange views and contribute ideas to the party draft political report to be presented at the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress.

Attending the conference were Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly; Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau; members of the VFF Central Committee Presidium; and people and intellectuals representing various sectors and mass organizations of Hanoi.

The conference welcomed the results achieved in the implementation of the renovation cause since the Sixth CPV Congress. Many participants urged that efforts be made to resolve the current problems in the economic, cultural, social, security, and social order sectors, saying that the political report should raise these issues and ask for immediate efforts to resolve them. Representatives from the Buddhist and Catholic communities asserted their firm confidence in the party leadership and pledged to implement satisfactorily the party and state lines and policies to contribute to achieving the common objective of building a strong and prosperous Vietnamese fatherland.

Hanoi, Provinces, Other Groups Hold Congresses

Hanoi Party Congress Ends

BK3004100391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Correspondent Tran Trong Chuy's "article on the results" of the First-Round 11th Congress of Hanoi's Party Organization; in the "Advance to the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam" feature]

[Text] The party organization of Hanoi held the first round of its 11th congress from 25 April to the morning of 29 April at the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Cultural Palace with the participation of 522 delegates, representing 170,000 members of nearly 2,000 party bases. Six of the delegates, among them Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, attended the congress at the party Central Committee's recommendation. A total of 60 delegates—nearly 30 of them engineers and associate PhDs—who were outstanding members of the party organization in terms of quality, virtue, and intellect, were elected to attend the upper-level party congress. The successful candidates received a fairly large number of votes and all were elected in a single balloting. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh was elected with the absolute majority of 100 percent of the votes.

The contribution of ideas to the various draft documents of the party Central Committee proceeded in a lively fashion. More than 100 delegates registered to speak, but because of time constraints, only 60 suggestions were presented to the congress. The congress forum was a relatively complete reflection of the voices of the congresses of party organizations at the district and precinct levels and of the party organizations directly subordinate to the Hanoi party organization in all fields of government work, production, trading, science, health care, culture, education, national defense, security, party building, mass mobilization, social policies, and so forth. Generally speaking, an overwhelming majority of statements affirmed the socioeconomic achievements scored since the sixth party congress. At the same time, all speakers showed frankness and sincerity. Instead of allocating blame or claiming credit, they went directly to analyzing facts by linking theory with practice to find the true nature of things and pointed out the fundamental principles of the various draft documents. They considered the weaknesses and deficiencies in the socioeconomic situation of Hanoi and the rest of the country as their own responsibility. As the ones directly involved and thus entitled to take pride in the party's glories, they must also assume responsibility for its weaknesses and mistakes. This attitude also reflected the strong political mettle, the intellectual capabilities, and the high level of unity and identity of views of the congress on the current important issues of the country.

One hundred percent of delegates confirmed that in view of the complex international situation, a section of cadres and people were afflicted with much confusion and worry. Our party should promulgate the program for national construction in the transitional period to serve as the basis for uniting the entire party and people and converging them in the same direction. All of the delegates asserted that history over the past 60 years has shown that the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] is the only party that has brought about independence, freedom, and a decent life for the people. Therefore, now more than ever before, the CPV must be the sole leader of the Vietnamese working class, and political pluralism is unacceptable. The lessons learned with blood and tears in East Europe have shown that we cannot accept a multiparty system and that Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts are the primary factors that determined our orientation in national defense and development.

Just like many lower-level party organization congresses, the congress of Hanoi's Party Organization affirmed its identity of views with the draft document saying that our country is carrying out the tasks of the period of transition to socialism. In this stage, we shall only bypass the political system of capitalism and not the entire capitalist economic form. Our party must know how to apply the positive aspects of this economic form to accelerate the economic development process in our country. All suggestions affirmed the objective necessity of the multi-sector commodity economy with its market mechanism managed by the state, with the working people acting as masters, and with the state-operated economy playing the leading role. In such a economic system, labor power must naturally be a commodity.

Concerning the assessment of the party's errors in the stage of the entire country advancing to socialism, some views held that aside from its successes, our party did at times make mistakes in the formulation of its lines and policies in some fields, not only in its guidance of their implementation. It must be understood, however, that such an evaluation did not mean a denial of the party's research and creative work and its leadership.

During the discussions of the viewpoints on development of external economic relations, a delegate who worked in that field suggested: An open economic system should be built in accordance with international practice. Only in this way can our country's economy be really merged with the world economy.

Regarding economic structure, an absolute majority of views affirmed: In the period of transition to socialism, agriculture must still be the foremost front. A series of adequate policies to promote investment in agriculture and to protect agricultural products should be adopted in conjunction with the rural development policies. To bring into full play the peasants' positive quality, all delegates suggested that the peasants' economic interests be closely tied with their right to use land, that peasants be granted the right to continued use of the land for 15 to 50 years depending on each area. Because of its limitations, however, agriculture can only ensure sufficient food supplies; if we want to be prosperous and strong, we must rely on industry. Therefore, the party must soon determine a number of industries as the spearheads, such as oil and gas, electronics and computer science, and shape export processing zones at an early date. Hanoi should receive investment on a priority basis so that it may become a worthy economic center for the entire country. Science and technology, education, and training should be given an important, foremost position because they are the key to speedy economic development.

Many views, especially those of the delegates from the education and health care sectors, suggested that aside from the three economic programs, the party should also work out a social program centered on the human strategy to check the degradation of education and health care. At the same time, in 1991 the party must concentrate on solving wage and unemployment problems and effectively suppress the scourge of corruption, which are pressing economic and political issues.

Numerous delegates concretely proposed that, after the seventh party congress, the first special issues to be discussed by party Central Committee plenums should be employment, living standards, and corruption suppression.

All the statements on party building stressed: To firmly maintain its leading role, the party must be regularly revamped. This is a matter of life and death. Only in so doing can the party retain its leading role, renovate itself, and measure up to the tasks of the revolution, of which the pivotal one is to regain public confidence. To date, the party's apparatus remains cumbersome, its functions still overlap each other, its efficiency is low, and its responsibilities are not clearly defined, which has resulted in the still prevalent practice of always claiming credit for success but denying responsbility for failure. Negative phenomena among cadres and party members have tended to increase but have not been seriously dealt with, and no basis has been created for their prevention. There should be a mechanism to check the scourges of bueaucratism, arbitrariness, and despotism, which have led to wastefulness and irresponsibility. The system of collective and individual leadership must be clearly defined to overcome the state in which many hold power but none are accountable.

Concerning the composition of the the party's highest organ of leadership, 100 percent of the delegates held that the Seventh Party Central Committee and Political Bureau should guarantee the principles of inheritance [thuwaf kees] and renovation, and that the seventh party congress should not be regarded as a congress of generational turnover [dqaij hooij chuyeenr giao thees heej].

Regarding the question of amending the Party Statutes, some views suggested that the term exploitation be dropped and that party members be allowed to engage in private economic activities provided that they behave themselves in an exemplary manner and abide by the law. Some views emphasized that party members' private economic activities are not only a guarantee of citizens' rights but also a necessity to develop the economy along the party line. Yet, some views contended that communist party members should not take up private economic activities for fear that once they have become proprietors they would think of exploitation.

At the closing session, Comrade Phan The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, stressed some immediate tasks of Hanoi's party organization. He said: It is necessary to continue to strongly push forward political and ideological work, consolidate the bloc of unity and singlemindedness of the entire party and people around the party Central Committee, stand firm in any eventuality, and urgently get down to the task of preparing for the second round of Hanoi's party organization congress in all respects. At the same time, it is necessary to actively resolve pressing socioeconomic problems. In particular, we must remove difficulties in industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production; tend to the 5th-month spring rice; take the initiative in preparing for 10th-month and winter crop planting; strengthen urban management; ensure political security and social order and safety; continue to purify the party and enhance its fighting strength; and struggle against corruption.

At the closing session, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed his views. He said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] Having attended the congress and having heard you speak over the past few days, I have been greatly heartened by the contents of all your statements. First of all, with regard to the issues of views and positions, all of the comrades who took the floor categorically stated that they do not accept political pluralism, multipartyism, and opposition parties; they will persistently advance to socialist construction; and they will hold fast to the Marxist-Leninist principles, especially the thoughts, workstyle, and virtues of President Ho. All your words emanated ardor and profound thinking. To be able to make such statements, you must have studied in depth the draft documents issued by the party Central Committee. At the same time, you must have gone deep into realities and taken hold of them. That is why whenever these documents failed to make a point clear and realistic enough and only set forth guidelines in general terms, you were able to cite realities to prove what was right and what was wrong. In a democratic spirit, you have contributed to the documents to be presented to or discussed at the seventh national party congress in such as way as to further enrich them all. These documents contain the contributions made by all the comrades attending this congress. [applause] [end recording]

The comrade general secretary then voiced his approval of some concerns and petitions put forth by various delegates concerning party building and socioeconomic development. He stressed: From your suggestions, I can see that our cadres and party members have both a standard of theoretical work and the capacity for practical work. Most of the practical issues you raised also had a theoretical nature.

The comrade general secretary emphasized: At the seventh party congress, we will issue resolutions. Right now, however, after attending this congress and returning to your localities, if you see there is something that must be done immediately but the party Central Committee has not yet issued the necessary directives, you should go ahead and do it instead of waiting for resolutions.

The first round of the 11th congress of Hanoi's party organization concluded in an atmosphere of solidarity and singlemindedness that was filled with confidence in the country's prospects.

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Closing

BK3004140091 Hanoi VNA in English 1212 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 30—The 11th congress of the Hanoi party organization closed yesterday after five days' sitting. The congress elected 65 delegates (including five stand-bys) to the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh was elected with one hundred per cent of the votes.

Addressing the closing session, Nguyen Van Linh said: "The debates at this congress indicate the unanimity of the Hanoi party members with the fundamental viewpoints of the draft documents of the Central Committee, notably the revolutionary and scientific character of Marxism-Leninism, the ideology, ethics and working style of President Ho Chi Minh, the prime factors to take our motherland to freedom, prosperity and happiness. The congress was not only unanimous in rejecting pluralistic and multiparty viewpoints, but also made valuable suggestions on how to solve a series of problens in the fields of economy, social affairs, public order, national defence, culture education, party building, mass work...." The congress was also unanimous in asserting the need now more than ever before to recognize the historic responsibility of the party as the only leader of the cause of national construction and defence.

Some delegates said the party had committed errors in several respects of policymaking, not just in the leadership in implementation, but that could not obliterate its great contributions and merits.

The delegates pointed to the following urgent probems that the 7th national congress have to address:

1—To carry out synchronous and more resolute measures to re-establish order in the economic, cultural and social life and immediately try the major cases of corruption of which the evidences have been positive.

2—To reform the wage system in order to guarantee the minimun standard of life for the wage earners and the beneficiaries of social welfare schemes.

3—To carry out urgent measures to stem the degradation of education, health care and culture and moral decadence, especially among young people.

NHAN DAN Views Hanoi Congress

BK2904145991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[From the 16 April press review]

[Text] Today on page 1, NHAN DAN carries an article titled "Before the Threshold of the Hanoi Party Organization Congress." After pointing out what has and has not yet been done and noting matters of concern at grass-roots congresses in various precincts and districts, the author says:

A matter of greatest concern to all the people of the capital, both party members and the masses, is the development of Hanoi. The municipality's socioeconomic development targets for 1991-95 involve consolidating and developing its achievements on the basis of firmly maintaining political security, exerting efforts to overcome new difficulties and ordeals in socioeconomic life, continuing to accelerate comprehensively the process of renovation, and striving to stabilize gradually the socioeconomic situation without causing any major upset in order to create momentum for development in the ensuing years.

Although the end of the five-year period is still a long way off, our determination to achieve the targets brings them closer. This means efforts must be made at all costs to resolve the difficulties in the state-run economy. It is dangerous to tend toward deviation and be hesitant because the state-run economy is the main source of revenue. The successful development of Hanoi's state-run economy is decided by the central economy.

To change the face of Hanoi and expand its production and business, appropriate investment must be provided by the central government to make it possible for Hanoi to replace techniques and equipment. Production, business, and services, if developed, will open wide the prospects for employment and revenue.

Whether or not the people are happy and interested in the party congress depends on the specific jobs and living standard of each family and on the care the people's livelihood receives from the party and state. It is this care which manifests political stability and party-people relations.

The capital's countryside must be given a facelift to ensure that it is not inferior to any other locality in the country. Meanwhile, all questions concerning culture, society, security, rice, school furniture, living quarters, roads, sewage and drainage systems, and city management must be raised at the congress.

Nguyen Quyet Addresses Navy Congress

BK2704121591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Article by station correspondent Nguyen Duc Son on the First-Round Party Congress in the Naval Force; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the congress of the naval force's party organization, General Nguyen Quyet, Party Central Committee secretary, member of the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee Military Commission, and head of the General Political Department, highly assessed the delegates' views contributed to the party's documents.

He urged the naval force's party organization to uphold its sense of solidarity and singlemindedness and truly serve as a leading nucleus of the force in order to rally the intelligence and ability of cadres and combatants; worthily contribute to defending the integrity and sovereignty of territory, waters, and continental shelves of the homeland; and score outstanding achievements to greet the upcoming all-army and national party congresses.

Defense Industry Congress

BK0205053391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Correspondent Ngoc Bao's report on the first round party organization congress of the General Department of Defense Industry and Economy]

[Text] The first round of the party organization congress of the General Department of Defense Industry and Economy lasted four days and was attended by 198 delegates representing 5,562 party members. Of the 198 delegates, 125 are party members from primary national defense production installations and 125 comrades have a college or higher education. Before coming to the congress, they had already debated the five draft documents in party cells, chapters, and committees at grass-roots level and in mass organizations of the party, such as trade unions and Ho Chi Minh Communist youth unions, to prepare for the seventh national party congress.

Breathing life and militancy from the national defense workers' movement into the congress, the delegates scrupulously shared their views on the five major contents of the two groups of documents of the party congress. In evaluating victories, mistakes, and shortcomings, and in analyzing their causes, the delegates clarified each issue comprehensively and scientifically. When debating the scope of the era, the delegates unanimously agreed with the evaluation in the documents. This is a major issue related to the formulation of development guidelines for the country. To make theoretical and realistic viewpoints on the era more profound, some delegates suggested that the coming national party congress should further clarify the fundamental contradictions of the era. Many delegates analyzed the inevitable destruction of capitalism. Against the present political background in the world, however, it is necessary to stress that this process will be long, devious, and complex, and, at times, the revolution must endure heavy losses.

Firmly believing in the path chosen by Uncle Ho and the party, the congress absolutely and unanimously agreed with the party's platform and its scope of economic development, the political report and other documents aimed at revamping the party organization, strengthening the party, and keeping the party abreast of the revolutionary tasks in the new stage.

Speaking of the party's new thinking concerning its tasks of building and developing the economy in the transitional period, Engineer Nguyen Xuan Long analyzed:

[Begin Nguyen Xuan Long recording] The platform presents various concepts unfamiliar to socialism that we have long conceived thus far. They are the concepts about competitive markets and about goods as labor force. We concur with the new thinking about socialism during the transitional period. Competitive markets and labor force of goods constitute both a condition and environment for the various economic sectors to develop. In studying the platform, the strategy of socioeconomic development and the political report, however, we think that the two concepts about planning and state-run industry should be further clarified. We should not withdraw the planning rules. State- run factories and industries implement the mechanism of competition in markets, but we should not say simplistically that they can hold the leading position without having to go through competition in markets.

State-run industry must by all means hold the leading role, especially in the key industrial sectors. In today's scientific and technological revolution, however, military science has progressed in a turbulent manner. If Vietnam's defense industrial sector in particular, and Vietnam's defense industry in general, is not reasserted more strongly, clearly, and specifically in the draft platform, the strategy of development and the political report to serve as a basis for researching plans for the development of defense industries, including in-depth investment, renovation of research, experiment, and production aspects along with investment in new construction of factories, new products, new technology and new technical equipment standards, it is difficult to believe that Vietnam's defense industry will be ready to meet requirements and provide promptly the necessary equipment to the armed forces, allowing the latter to conduct victoriously the people's war and firmly defend the air and sea space, islands and border areas of the country under all circumstances while developments in the world are now taking place in a very complicated multipolar way. [end recording]

Against the present political background, in order to maintain political stability, the party should be duly concerned with the tasks of national defense and security. Many delegates asserted that our Army has been founded, educated, and forged by Uncle Ho and the party for more than 40 years, and generations of cadres and combatants in the Army have cooperated with all the people to defeat all aggressors. In the new period, the struggle to safeguard independence and freedom and protect the socialist regime will be even more complicated. The Army and the public security force must also be led directly and comprehensively by the party in a centralized and unified manner. The strength of these forces depends not only on political awareness, but also on increasingly modern equipment. The forces must be motivated and materially cared for by the state and people. In the past 15 or more years, we have not done this task satisfactorily. The policies toward troops and the Army's rear guard have not been paid due attention. The country's industry has not been oriented toward helping to build and modernize the Army. Investment in national defense industry is still small.

Comrade Nguyen Dinh Lieu analyzed:

[Begin Nguyen Dinh Lieu recording] In 1987, Political Bureau Resolution No. 2 on the national defense industry and its tasks was issued but not implemented adequately. Since the sixth party congress, although the Political Bureau and the National Defense Ministry have paid more attention to the issue, there has been neither a policy nor a strategy of defense tasks. As a result, the knowledge, viewpoints, and practical work concerning defense tasks are not yet commensurate with the importance of the tasks. Neither party organs nor the state have established any specific plans, institutions, rules, systems, or policies toward the armed forces. Moreover, some people think that troops in peace time should not be well treated in their training and force recuperation; preferential treatment of soldiers and defense workers must derive from economic successes; investment in national defense is not economic and is a burden, and so on. Therefore, it is of no use to make investment.

We have not treated well those forces that are doing all kinds of work. The systems of pay and ranks in our Army are outdated. In the world there are about 130 countries that have their own armies. Even though the political and social regimes differ from one another and their population, geography, and development level are also different, they seem to hold one common view that troops must be given preferential treatment in society. Moreover, they consider it a binding matter in the struggle to safeguard and consolidate the country and nation. As a result, the pay of their troops is usually 1.8 to 3.2 times higher than that of civilians of similar pay grades. The Soviet Union has 23 items of preferential treatment for troops, Canada has 90 items, Japan has 150 items, Germany has 250 items, and so on. In Indonesia, the monthly pay of a second lieutenant is $500 plus $11 allowance each to his father, mother, wife, and children. Our defense industry has not been considered an important force. As a result, the policy and system concerning the industry have not been paid due attention. The armies in other countries normally have 45-65 percent of their personnel as competent defense experts. Our Army only has 5 percent, because we have not had a correct policy to attract talented people into the national defense industry. As for material and capital investment in the defense industry, it is still small and inconsistent. As the central government requests that defense industry manufacture weapons and equipment for infantry and modernize small arms, the state should formulate unified policies and viewpoints to make satisfactory investment in the defense industry so that the latter can fulfill its mission. As stated above, I suggest the committee drafting documents for the seventh party congress rewrite the part on the defense industry to keep it abreast of its strategic mission and relevant to its role and position in the new revolutionary stage. At the same time, all the people should be educated on national defense tasks. Only by doing so can we create the integrated strength to firmly defend the socialist Vietnam fatherland in the new revolutionary stage. [end recording]

The party organization congress of the general department of the defense industry and economy concluded with a fine success and elected a 12-member delegation to the upcoming all-Army party congress.

Ideology, Culture Congress

BK0105095191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of the Ideology and Culture Department of the party Central Committee held its first round party congress on 4 and 5 April. Over the past few months, the department has launched a broad political drive in the entire service to offer suggestions to the seventh national party congress documents.

At the department's party organization congress, all the delegates expressed an identity of views with the most important issues raised in the draft documents. They affirmed that the Vietnamese revolution must continue to follow the socialist path and expressed their belief that the nation will certainly overcome the difficulties in its way. They also confirmed that Marxism-Leninism and President Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary ideology are the lodestar of building socialism in our country now and in the future, and that pluralism and multipartyism are unacceptable.

At the congress, the delegates contributed numerous ideas on how the party should exert guidance in ideological work and in artistic and cultural activities in conformity with the social development trend.

Central Public Security Congress

BK0105094591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of the public security sector at the central level held its first round congress on 22 April. Attending the congress were 277 delegates.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee attended the opening session.

Speaking to the congress, the general secretary highly commended the people's public security force for its achievements in maintaining social order and safety. He urged the delegates to broaden democracy and contribute more ideas to the party draft documents in order to make them perfect.

Dealing with the results in ideas contributing exercise, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh stressed: The political drives to contribute viewpoints to the party documents carried out by party organizations at various echelons have enhanced the cadres'and party members' awareness and understanding in party concepts, lines, objectives, and policies. These drives have also strengthened the people's confidence in the party leadership, socialism, and the struggle along the socialist path chosen by our party, Uncle Ho, and the people.

The general secretary also pinpointed various important issues mentioned in the draft documents and those related to the political task of the people's public security force. He also stressed issues pertaining to party leadership over public security force and the requirement for broadening democracy and developing prolentarian dictatorship, while urging delegates to discuss them extensively.

The congress is continuing its five-day sitting.

Dong Nai Province Congress

BK2804040591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of Dong Nai Province held its first-round congress from 23 to 25 April with the participation of 350 delegates representing 180,000 party members.

The delegates contributed many important ideas to the documents of the seventh national party congress. They affirmed that the Communist Party of Vietnam was the sole leader of the Vietnamese revolution and that the building of socialism, which was chosen by President Ho Chi Minh and our party, was a fine path conforming to objective laws. The delegates held that in the current economic conditions, it is correct to develop a multi-sector economy, but the state economic sector must play the leading role. On the land issue, the delegates maintained that the state must place this valuable asset under its unified management, but that it can grant people the right to long-term land use. The delegates were of the opinion that party members may engage in private economic activities. The congress also made a host of other suggestions to the draft documents.

The congress elected 17 delegates to the seventh national party congress.

Haiphong Municipality Congress

BK2904142391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The 10th, first-round party organization congress of Haiphong Municipality opened this morning, 24 April. Attending the congress were 429 delegates representing over 700,000 party members of the municipal party organization. Also present were Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other members of the party Central Committee who came to Haiphong to be elected to the Party Central Committee.

Comrade Le Danh Phuong, secretary of the Haiphong Municipal Party Committee, read an opening speech and a report summing up the views on various draft documents of the seventh party congress that had been discussed during many political discussions held earlier by subordinate grass-roots party organizations.

The report says: By April 1991, the entire party organization of Haiphong Municipality had finished its first-round political discussion drive among its subordinate grass-roots party organizations at the district, precinct, town, and corresponding levels.

Generally speaking, Haiphong has basically attained various objectives. From party chapter meetings to the party organization congresses at various levels, there existed a lively, frank, and proud atmosphere as participants voiced their opinions and chose delegates to attend higher-echelon party congresses. The summation of opinions was made carefully to ensure completeness and faithfulness. Many establishments and localities also did a good job in soliciting the views of non-party delegates. Thanks to this process, all the participating party members and delegates became more aware of various matters concerning socio-economic activities, national construction and defense, socialism, the party's leadership role, the state's governing power, and the people's right to mastery. The election of delegates to attend higher-echelon congresses was carried out in a democratic fashion and in accordance with set rules. The political discussion by the grass-roots party organization congresses at various levels in Haiphong, however, exposed some shortcomings. A number of grass-roots party organizations were cited for their careless preparations, hastiness, and failure to ensure an appropriate amount of time for delegates to air their views. The bulk of party members were not active enough as they did not think carefully in offering their views in a more desirable manner.

By summing up reports from 40 party organizations at various levels under the Haiphong Municipal Party Committee, one can see that various major issues have been raised for discussion and suggestions have been made. All the participating party members displayed a high level of agreement, a desire to build the country along the path of socialism already chosen by the party and President Ho Chi Minh, and a determination to carry out the renovation of the country; and reaffirmed important achievements already made under the renovation undertaking since the sixth party congress and the need to vigorously shift toward a multisectoral commodity-based economy and operate according to a market system under state control.

The 10th first-round party organization congress of Haiphong Municipality will continue to hold sessions until 27 April.

Ha Bac Province Congress

BK0105112991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] On 22 April, the party organization of Ha Bac Province opened the first round of its eighth congress in Bac Giang city. On the recommendation of the party Central Committee Secretariat, Comrades Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, and Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly, ran for the posts of delegates of Ha Bac's party organization to the seventh national party congress.

Beginning in the last months of 1990, the party organization of Ha Bac has launched intensive, lively political drives among the party and the masses to promote study, discussions, and suggestions to the draft documents that will be presented at the seventh party congress. The party members, cadres, and peopie of various ethnic minorities in Ha Bac have contributed more than 80,000 suggestions to the draft documents.

The congress has devoted much time to discussing the contents of the draft documents. On the morning of the opening session, no fewer than 56 delegates were registered to speak. Based on from Ha Bac's profile as a midland province inhabited by many ethnic minority groups and on the fact that more than 80 percent of its population are peasants, the delegates focused their statements mainly on agricultural economy, rural society, and the peasants' standard of living. A majority of views disapproved of the right to inheritance, particularly the right to transfer arable land. They also raised the following question: If peasants are given the right to long-term use of land, what should the time limits be? Concerning the current role of agricultural, marketing, and credit cooperatives in the rural areas, particularly those in the mountainous areas, they wondered whether these cooperatives should be dissolved. If not, what forms should the cooperatives take to suit the current situation?

Ha Son Binh Province Congress

BK3004041791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Station correspondent Huy Toan article: "Notes on the First-Round Congress of Ha Son Binh Province's Party Organization," in the "Advance to the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam" feature]

[Text] The first round of meetings of the fifth congress of the party organization of Ha Son Binh Province, which was held from 16 to 18 April, concluded with great success. The congress was attended by 350 official delegates representing nearly 70,000 party members and 1,280 grass-roots party organizations throughout the province.

During the three days of meetings, the congress heard more than 60 suggestions to the various draft documents of the seventh national party congress. The suggestions focused on the issues of evaluating the successes of the Vietnamese revolution, the line of socialist revolution, the situation after four years of implementing the resolution of the sixth party congress, the socioeconomic targets for the period up to the year 2000, and party building.

The congress also paid special attention to the issue of agricultural production. Thanks to the contract mechanism institutionalized by Resolution 10, the peasants in Ha Son Binh now own their rice fields. Crop yields have constantly increased with each passing year; cultivation of industrial plants has expanded owing to favorable conditions; many traditional handicrafts have been revived; and fine arts and handicraft products such as embroidery, rattan and bamboo basketry, lacquerware, mother-of-pearl inlay, and silk have appeared on nearly all East and West European and Asian markets. Electricity and running water have been introduced to many areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, nomadism has sharply decreased, communications have constantly developed, and most children of the ethnic minority groups are now going to school. All this was confirmed by the delegates as the results of renovation in Ha Son Binh.

Aside from the major issues raised in the draft documents, with which they expressed an identity of views, the delegates devoted most of their time to discussing and making suggestions on the right to use land and to transfer land ownership, the question of whether party members should be allowed to engage in private economic activities, the need to clearly define what exploitation really means, the need for the party to adopt a concrete policy concerning mountainous regions, the question of how to develop small industry and handicrafts, and what social policies should be formulated to benefit the people when they are considered the moving force of social progress.

Regarding the land issue, many delegates of the party organizations of Phu Xuyen, Thuong Tin, Thanh Oai, and Quoc Oai Districts expressed the wishes of the local peasants to enjoy firm rights to use, sell, and inherit land. There were some suggestions that land should be turned over to the peasants for 15 to 20 years and that cooperative management boards play the role of manager, regulator, and leader of various services in agricultural production.

About the economy in mountainous regions, all delegates held that the economy in these regions had developed at a slow pace during the past few years because of the lack of a concrete policy would encourage the development of areas specializing in the production of special forest products. The people of various nationalities in Ha Son Binh still face numerous difficulties in their daily life. The standards of local cadres and party members remains low because of a lack of knowledge and information. Delegates from Tan Lac, Lac Thuy, and Da Bac Districts said: Our region is located in the Da River basin. Our people were evacuated to allow for the construction of the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant. When the plant begins to generate electricity and high-tension power lines run through our villages and hamlets, however, we will still have no electricity because we lack the money to buy transformers. Even if we could buy transformers, we would not dare use electricity because it costs too much. We live in a mountainous area and have little money.

The congress paid close attention to the question of developing small industry and handicrafts to create jobs for youths in the countryside. Ha Son Binh is a rural area with many traditional handicrafts. As the delegates of the bloc of small industry and handicrafts put it, however, many handicraft cooperatives want to phase out but cannot because, while being forced by the market to compete fiercely, they can find no outlet for their products. What policy then should be adopted for the craftsmen? How should their livelihood be taken care of, particularly regarding those living in industrial crop growing areas?

The first round of meetings of the fifth congress of Ha Son Binh Province's party organization was a symbol of frankness, openness, democracy, and the concentrated intellect of the nearly 70,000 local party members. While contributing ideas to the documents of the seventh national party congress, the delegates took into consideration the actual situation in the localities to prove the accuracy of their views. After three days of intensive work, the delegates felt that their discussions had helped improve their understanding of the party's lines and policies and their own knowledge of various economic, political, cultural, and social issues.

In a single vote, the congress elected 25 official delegates and two alternate ones to the seventh national party congress.

Hau Giang Province Congress

BK2904094691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of Hau Giang Province held the first round of its congress in Can Tho from 23 to 25 April with the participation of 340 delegates representing more than 3,400 party throughout the province, a Voice of Vietnam correspondent reported from Hau Giang.

The congress devoted most of its time to making suggestions on and discussing the draft documents of the seventh national party congress. It focused attention on those issues on which the district and city party congresses still held differing views. Most delegates expressed a high level of unanimity with the party Central Committee's draft documents. Regarding the assertion that our country will have resolved its economic crisis by 1995, however, an overwhelming majority of delegates held that Hau Giang and the rest of the country will not be able to overcome the economic crisis of the 1990's.

With a large majority of votes, the congress elected 18 full delegates and two alternate delegates to the seventh national party congress.

Hoang Lien Son Province Congress

BK0205083191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The Hoang Lien Son party organization recently held the first round of its fifth congress with the participation of 300 delegates from hundreds of basic party organizations throughout the province.

Comrades Do Quoc Sam and Pham Nhu Cuong, alternate members of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, attended the congress and were nominated as delegates to the Seventh CPV Congress.

Comrade Ha Thiet Hung, secretary of the provincial party committee, delivered a report on suggestions made to the party draft documents by various party organization congresses. Generally speaking, the report condensed all ideas related to major issues raised in the draft documents. It also expressed the identity of views on such topics as the appraisal of great victories and lessons of the Vietnamese revolution, the socioeconomic development program, national defense and security tasks, foreign policy, and so forth.

Many delegates presented hundreds of ideas in their discussions to clarify issues mentioned in the draft documents to make them easy to understand.

Because it is a mountainous province with various ethnic minority groups, the Hoang Lien Son congress focused its discussions on the economic development of the region. Many delegates said that measures regarding the development of the region as mentioned in the draft document were not in line with this significant strategic task, because the region's land and potential are great and its strategic position in the national development strategy must be stressed. It is also necessary to mention that the region can develop its own natural potential rather than rely on assistance from other regions mentioned in the draft document. Moreover, it is necessary to mention that developing the region is the long-term economic development strategy of the country and not only the task of the ethnic minority groups, and that this is one of the important strategic tasks aimed at developing the national economy on a long-term basis. As a result, investment in developing the mountain region will bring progress and prosperity to the country in general and the ethnic minority in particular.

Many delegates discussed the social welfare policy for the mountain region covering the cultural, education, public health, communications and transportation sectors, and so forth. They said difficulties are still prevalent in these sectors and the central government should take measures to help the region overcome these difficulties.

The congress also elected delegates to the Seventh CPV Congress. It also adopted a program of action to implement satisfatorily the three major economic programs, particularly the production of grains and food. Under this program, the province will strive to exceed the 1991 grain production plan norm of 297,000-280,000 tonnes. The province will also strive to provide assistance to people in areas that lack food, to those who are entitled to social welfare allowances, and so forth. The congress also called for the implementation of the party Central Committee Secretariat's directive on practicing thrift and opposing waste.

Khanh Hoa Province Congress

BK0105134091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The party organization of Khanh Hoa Province held the first round of its congress session from 27 to 30 April. Of the 300 delegates attending, 27 were from various ethnic minority groups.

The congress showed a high level of unanimity regarding the party's introduction of the program for national construction during the transition to socialism. It reaffirmed the objective of taking the country to socialism, a goal chosen by the party and Uncle Ho, and its rejection of pluralism and multipartyism. The delegates conducted a fairly lively debate over the development of a multi-sector economy and over whether or not party members should be allowed to engage in private economic activities. According to most of the views expressed during the congress, because our country is in transition to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development, it is necessary to use a state-regulated multi-sector economic system. Party members may engage in private economic activities provided that they abide by the law in an exemplary manner. On the land issue, the majority of delegates held that people should be given only the right to use it, not the right to inherit it or transfer ownership.

Many delegates from various ethnic minorities and party cadres working in mountainous districts proposed that in the seventh congress documents there should be a separate section dealing with socioeconomic development in the mountainous regions. Many called on the party to pay greater attention to national defense, giving it the same status as building socialism. Concerning organization, the party's apparatus should be trimmed and made compact in order to strengthen the provincial administrative machinery. The district- and village-level administrative machinery, however, should be scaled down. The district should not be considered as a budget-managing level; the district and village should only be seen as an administrative management level.

In one round of voting, the congress elected 14 delegates to the seventh national party congress.

Lang Son Province Congress

BK0205054591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The Lang Son party organization successfully concluded the first round of its 11th congress which met from 22 to 25 April. Attending the congress were 248 delegates from the Tay, Nung, Hmong, San Chi, and Mang ethnic minority groups.

Regarding issues relating to the mountainous regions and ethnic minority groups, many delegates suggested that the objectives, orientations, and policies pertaining to these issues should be formulated in a concrete, uniform manner both at the central and local levels. They suggested that the state should invest in and provide more loans to the mountainous provinces to help them build essential infrastructures in order to develop and improve agriculture, forestry, communications and transportation, electric and water management sectors, schools, and public health services. The delegates also stressed the necessity to educate and train local cadres in the mountainous regions.

The congress elected 16 delegates to attend the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Congress. It also urged cadres, party members, ethnic minority groups, and the armed forces in the province to score achievements in the implementation of the 1991 socioeconomic development program.

Long An Province Congress

BK2804102691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of Long An Province held the first round of its congress on 25-26 April with the participation of 299 delegates representing 13,000 local party members.

Before the congress, in an open and democratic spirit and with a serious attitude, the local people of all strata made more than 20,000 suggestions to the various draft documents of the seventh national party congress. The congress elected 14 full delegates and two alternate delegates to attend the seventh party congress.

Song Be Province Congress

BK0105131991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The delegates of the party organization of Song Be Province opened the first round of the fifth congress on 24 April. Comrades Phan Xuan Dot, alternate member of the party Central Comittee and minister of forestry; and Le Van Kien, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Central Control Committee, attended the congress. Also attending were 310 delegates representing more than 13,000 party members in Song Be Province. These delegates were elected by the party organizations directly subordinate to the provincial party organizations.

Following the opening spech by Comrade Nguyen Van Luong, secretary of the provincial party committee, his deputy, Comrade Tran Phong, summed up the suggestions made on the various draft documents of the seventh national party congress. Party members participated in discussions 37,383 times and made 30,692 suggestions regarding the draft documents. Their highly diversified suggestions were the result of their discussions of issues on which they held differing views.

The issues that captured the attention of the delegates at various party organization congresses were economic, cultural, and social development. The delegates suggested that a planned commodity economy be developed, a state-managed market mechanism be instituted, the commodity economy be closely linked to market relations, and the state clearly define the character of plans and the substance of management work in implementing the market mechanism. The delegates affirmed that a policy should be adopted to protect peasants in agricultural production, particularly poor peasants who lack capital for production.

Thuan Hai Province Congress

BK0205104991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] The delegates of the party organization of Thuan Hai Province opened the first round of the fifth congress from 25 to 27 April. The congress collected more than 30,000 views from party members and the masses who took part in the debate on various draft documents of the seventh party congress.

Most of these views affirmed the leading role of the party and the path to socialism chosen by the party and Uncle Ho, resolutely opposed pluralism or a multiparty system and all attempts to disclaim revolutionary gains and diminish the party's leading role, and asserted that the policy of renovation and the achievements recorded in the process of renovation since the sixth party congress are very important and serve as the basis for unbroken progress.

The delegates concentrated on discussing and debating the basic contradictions during the transitional period in our country and the problems in the transition to socialism and the development of a multicomponent economy.

The congress devoted much time to discussing the question of whether or not party members should be allowed to engage in private economic activities, the policy on land allocation, and, particularly, the policy on social welfare and the resolution of problems regarding living conditions and employment.

Many delegates suggested that the party and state adopt appropriate policies toward workers, civil servants, members of the armed forces, and those entitled social welfare and review the systems governing hospital and school fees for children of poor laborers and the living conditions of the people of various nationalities in the mountainous areas.

The congress elected 15 official delegates and one alternate to the seventh national party congress. Of these, two were elected on the recommendation of the central level.

Vung Tau-Con Dao Congress

BK0105131391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The party organization of Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone opened the first round of its third congress on 23 April with the participation of 278 official delegates representing more than 5,200 members of 76 basic organizations in the entire special zone. The delegates' average age was 47 years. Eighteen 18 delegates received the 45-Year Party Membership Badge. Regarding their specialized skills and technical level, 10 delegates were PhD's or candidate PhD's, and 145 were college graduates or postgraduates.

On behalf of the congress presidium, Comrade Le Quang Thanh, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the special zone's party committee read the opening speech. Comrade Nguyen Hoang Thuyet, deputy secretary of the special zone's party committee, then summed up the suggestions to the draft documents of the seventh national party congress and issues to be discussed at the special zone's party organization congress.

On opening day, the congress held discussions and continued to make suggestions to the five draft documents of the seventh party congress.

Targeted Districts Congresses

BK2704170091 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 11 April 91

[Text] Following the first round of congresses of the primary level party organizations, party organization congresses were held in late March and early April in targeted districts in Hau Giang, Kien Giang, Binh Dinh, and Song Be Provinces.

In Hau Giang, the party committee selected Long Phu District as the example from which to draw experiences for the benefit of other districts. In this district, party members presented their views 6,500 times. Some of the views dealt with major issues mentioned by many people, such as giving the peasants the right to use land and rice fields for a long time. It was also suggested that the state should adopt a policy to support the family economy sector and fix proper interest rates on loans for at least a period of six months; this timeframe corresponds with the cycle of agricultural production for crop cultivation and animal husbandry to stimulate production.

In Kien Giang, the party organization congress of Ha Tien District debated the quality of party members and the party development task, stressing the need to analyze the causes of degeneration among some party members and their poor performance that has not met the requirements of their assigned tasks, especially among party members recruited since 1975.

In Song Be, the party organization congress of Bu Dang Mountainous District debated at length on the policies and measures regarding the ethnic minority people and made practical and specific proposals, such as a policy of proper investment in settled farming and life, and building homes and gardens for the nomadic people of the same clans. Investment in mountainous regions primarily involves the expansion of a network of roads for communication and paying proper attention to former resistance base areas to create conditions for the development of a commodity economy in the mountainous regions. This is the only way these regions can emulate low-lying regions.

Ha Bac Holds Seminar on Party Press Work

BK0105060691 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] A fourth seminar was held in the Ha Bac newspaper office for party newspapers in northern provinces on the continuation of press work on national renovation.

The seminar mentioned the propaganda work of the newspaper on party building and the party congress, the publication of party newspapers, the work of journalists and collaborators, and the coordination among mass media organizations in propaganda work.

Many speeches at the seminar covered a variety of subjects. The prominent subjects were: the propaganda work on the party building, the requirement of political sensitiveness of party press workers for crushing conspiracies and sabotaging viewpoints of the overseas reactionaries as well as opportunistic, discontent, and anti-party elements in the country to contribute to stabilizing national security and politics and to strengthening the fighting force of the party organizations.

The seminar suggested that reports and articles on the party should be brief and informative. It also recognized that local party newspapers have improved much in content and printing technique but that their publication has not increased significantly.

Hai Phong and some provinces organized to sell their newspapers widely, but other provinces still sold their newspapers through the mail and only to organizations and offices.

The seminar stressed that the provincial party newspapers, on one hand, need to improve in content, appearance, and style, and on the other hand, the newspapers need leadership and direction from the party committee so the voice of the party can reach the public.

The seminar suggested that the central level organize seminars and training sections for editors-in-chief, inform completely and quickly on current issues and new policies to provincial newspapers, and create conditions for local editors-in-chief and journalists to have close contacts on important issues such as the national party congress so they can report quickly on the congress.

VNA Gives Statistics on Rural Population

BK0205061991 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA 2 May—Vietnam has a rural population of 51,000,000 people living in about 10,000,000 families at 9,600 villages.

The agricultural workforce numbers 25,000,000 people, accounting for 75 percent of the national total. Among them, nearly 1.5 million persons have finished their general education, 672,000 have got intermediate vocational training and 254,000 others have got the college, university or postgraduate degrees.

As a result Vietnamese farmers have actively applied scientific and technical advances to production, thus helping to raise the country's food output to 21.5 million tons in 1990. However, the figure is still modest if compared with 7.1 million hectares of agricultural land and a workforce of 25,000,000 people.

Hmong People's Migration Causes Social Problems

BK0105105191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Due to the present deforestation, Hmong people from many Hoang Lien Son localities such as Xi Ma Cai, Bac Ha, and Mu Cang Chai, have left their mountain villages, walking for a month over hundreds of kilometers to find new land to live on.

The migration has been going on for some time and is spreading, causing difficulties and serious social problems.

This disorderly migration is a result of many years of neglect to settled farming and the impersonality of intensive cultivation with the introduction of technology to agriculture that does not take the people's lives into account.

In 1990 Hoang Lien Son invested 800 million dong in addition to funds from the provincial budget. However, nomadic farming and living could not be stopped as the investments were not sufficient.

Many responsible comrades investigating the situation have met and urged the people to return to their mountain villages. Some who went to Son La and Lai Chau have been transferred back to Tac Ta and Than Yen Villages in Hoang Lien Son.

For the long term, every policy has to be practical, especially for the mountainous areas. They must take into account tradition, culture. They must also consider investment in production and health care services, and must provide rice, salt, fuel, and medication for the people.

Recently, the Hoang Lien Son Standing People's Committee donated rice from the provincial storage to help the needy in the districts of Bat Xat, Mu Cang Chai, Tram Tau, Van Chan, and others. They have also implemented measures to settle the Hmong people and limit their nomadic farming and way of life.

The other provinces of Ha Nam Ninh and Tien Giang also have given food to Hoang Lien Son.

40,000 Ethnic Minorities To Move to Song Be

BK0105092091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] As from early 1990, more than 10,000 families of 40,000 persons had resettled in five highland districts of Song Be Province. Most of these families were ethnic minority groups from Cao Bang, Lang Son, and Bac Thai Provinces; some of them were from Ha Nam Ninh, Thanh Hoa, and Nghe Tinh Provinces.

These are families experiencing difficulties and shortages of land for cultivation who migrated without planning to Song Be Province. This has disturbed the normal situation in the province and caused difficulties for the local authorities to seek ways and means to build more schools and public health posts, as well as to allocate more land for them to till. As a result, the new resettlers are facing numerous difficulties despite great efforts made by the local administration and people to help them.

Australia

Commonwealth Secretary-General Holds Talks

BK0205091091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 2 (AFP)—The South African Government's failure to stop township violence could derail the dismantling of apartheid, Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said here Thursday.

"Unless more energetic steps are taken by the South African Government to arrest the violence we will have a derailment of the process of negotiations (to end apartheid)," Chief Anyaoku told reporters.

Violence in the South African townships between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party has claimed thousands of lives in the past four years.

The ANC has said the South African police and army have failed to stop the violence, and has claimed attacks on ANC members have been instigated by security forces.

"The ANC detailed instances where they said the South African police could have restrained those perpetrating the violence and nothing was done by the South African police," Chief Anyaoku said.

Chief Anyaoku, on his first visit to Australia since taking over the top commonwealth post in July last year, held talks Wednesday with Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans and Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Canberra Hails Antarctica Mining Moratorium

BK3004071091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Canberra, April 30 (AFP)—Australian Environment Minister Ros Kelly and conservationists Tuesday praised a proposal which will ban mining in the Antarctic for at least 50 years.

Mrs. Kelly told reporters here that the protocol, an addition to the 1959 Antarctic treaty, would ensure that "the last great untouched area of this universe will remain that way."

"Today we've seen one of the most significant international agreements ever reached on the environment," she said.

"It provides for the designation of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science," Mrs. Kelly said.

The Antarctic nations agreed to consider a compromise conservation package at a meeting of the 26 consultative and 13 non-voting treaty members in Madrid.

The protocol includes an indefinite ban on mining, but allows a treaty signatory to lift the ban after 50 years, provided none of the other 26 consultative parties objects.

The compromise text ends an impasse between those countries which wanted a permanent ban, led by Australia and France, and those which wanted to keep the mining option open, notably the United States and Britain.

Governments will consider the protocol before their next meeting in June.

Mrs. Kelly said she was confident the protocol would be accepted and its ratification would be a "mere formality."

Kaye Dyson, spokeswoman for Greenpeace Australia, said the breakthrough was a "large victory" because it would be very difficult for mining to be allowed after 50 years.

"It's a compromise by the treaty nations but even so it's a huge step forward," she said.

Fiji

Ratu Mara Accepts General Election Postponement

BK0205045291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Suva, May 2 (AFP)—Fiji Premier Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara Thursday endorsed a postponement of general elections until July 1992 and said the government is committed to returning to parliamentary rule.

Amidst growing speculation that the interim government Ratu Mara has headed since Army coups in 1987 could rule for another five years, he said: "I wish to reiterate my commitment to return our country to parliamentary government."

His administration will support recommendations of the electoral and boundaries commissions for Fiji's first election since the coups to be held "mid-next year," he said.

Ratu Mara said all races in Fiji can expect peace under the new Constitution, which discriminates against the ethnic Indians who comprise 44.4 per cent of the population.

"Peace and harmony have prevailed under the new Constitution at a time when one reads how many people are dying everyday of violence in so many countries of the world," he told delegates at the start of two-day national economic summit.

He said government believes a majority of Fiji's 727,000 people accept the new Constitution, promulgated last July 25. "The major critics of it are a small group of power brokers who are insensitive to the Fijians," he said.

Indigenous Fijians are allocated 37 parliamentary seats (22 before) under the 1990 Constitution, compared to Indians 27 (22 before) and other races five (eight previously).

Ratu Mara Warns Against 'Too Much Optimism'

BK0205085091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Fiji's interim prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, has reaffirmed his determination to increase indigenous Fijian participation in the country's commerce. In an address on the opening day of a two-day national economic summit in Suva, he described promotion of Fijians in business as a paramount policy of his government.

Ratu Mara also warned against too much optimism as Fiji moved toward economic independence because of uncertainties in world markets. The prime minister also reaffirmed his government's intention to hold elections by the middle of next year.

He dismissed critics of Fiji's new race-based Constitution as a small group of power brokers not sensitive to the Fijian community.

Proposed Labor Laws To Make Unions 'Behave'

BK0205105991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Suva, May 2 (AFP)—Minimum wage guidelines will disappear, time limits will be set on strikes and unions involved in industrial action will face prosecution under proposed labour reforms announced by Fiji's interim government Thursday.

Trade and Commerce Minister Berenado Vunibobo told an economic conference here that the new labour laws were intended to make unions behave responsibly and improve the economy.

Under the new laws, employers would get greater freedom to source [as received] workers and become more competitive with easier labour policies, he said.

At the same time, the economy could be expected to move at a faster pace because of the reduced possibility of strike action.

Mr. Vunibobo told the two-day 1991 National Economic Summit the government intends to amend the Trade Unions Act and Trade Disputes Act which stipulate such laws as recognition of unions and their rights.

Under his proposals, unions would be recognised if they represent two thirds of the workforce of a company or government enterprise instead of 50 per cent, as required at present.

Public sector wages would be brought into line with the private sector by reintroducing annual pay adjustments for civil servants.

Wages councils would be abolished along with minimum wages guidelines, especially for the manufacturing sector like garment factories.

The government and private employers have faced dozens of strikes since the 1987 coups because of pay cuts and what are claimed to be poor conditions in factories recently established to take advantage of new tax incentives.

The 35-member Fiji Trades Union Congress, which is boycotting the summit because it claims the government does not comply with existing labour laws, said it would study the proposals in detail before reacting.

However, it has warned that the unions would not sit back if the government curbed existing union rights.

Veteran ethnic Indian trade unionist James Raman, who represents one of the six participating unions at the summit, warned the measures would kill trade unionism in Fiji.

He said the government would contravene the convention of the International Labour Organisation, of which it is a member.

Earlier Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica had told the summit that new economic policies like deregulation and a value-added tax scheme which will be imposed from July, 1992 could only bring dividends if the economy was allowed to run with the "least disruptions".

He said the biggest challenge now facing Fiji was labour market reform, "where cultural traditions of our ethnic groups here mingle with the cultural and ideological traditions of Europe in an often uncomfortable combination."

Mr. Kamikamica told 400 participants at the summit that the government deliberately did not issue a wage guideline in its 1991 budget because it is "a first step in the deregulation of the labour market."

Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara told the summit the interim government, installed by the army after the coups, intends to make the unions responsible.

"A freer labour market requires unions to be truly representative of and responsive to their members," Ratu Mara said. "It requires unions to be responsible for their actions. They should also operate within the law."

He said while the government did not want to sound anti-union, it felt for its economic policies to succeed labour market reforms were necessary.

Mr. Kamikamica said the administration was also slashing the size of government relative to the rest of the economy.

Government expenditure, he said, had been reduced to an estimated 24 per cent of Gross Domestic Product in 1990, from 30 per cent in 1986, while the net deficit target for 1991 was one per cent of GDP.

New Zealand

Prime Minister: Japan's Minesweepers Appreciated

BK2604130491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Wellington, April 26 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger Friday welcomed a Japanese decision to send minesweepers to the Gulf.

He said the work of clearing shipping lanes was important and it was a particularly appropriate way for Japan to help shipping security.

"The efficiency of the Japanese minesweeping forces will be much appreciated by everyone else involved in the post-war reconstruction effort," Mr. Bolger said in a statement.

The dispatch of the minesweepers is the first deployment of Japanese military forces abroad since the country's defeat in World War II.

Papua New Guinea

Rebels Claim To Have Captured Invasion Plan

BK2604032891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0307 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Honiara, April 26 (AFP)—The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) released here Friday a copy of what it claims is a secret Papua New Guinea plan to retake the rebel-held island province.

The BRA said the plan was taken from a local businessman, Joel Naisi, whom the group claimed was an agent of Papua New Guinea's National Intelligence Organisation, the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) reported.

The BRA claimed it had captured Mr. Naisi with the report after he was dropped on Bougainville's coast by a Papua New Guinea patrol boat at Orava village about 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the southern-most tip of the island, the SIBC said.

Mr. Naisi travelled in a small boat a further 10 kilometres (six miles) north to Lalawai, where he was captured, the BRA said.

The SIBC said Mr. Naisi was then taken to the BRA headquarters where he subsequently died.

An 18-page document marked "confidential" found on Mr. Naisi detailed a carefully developed strategy for Papua New Guinea to retake Bougainville from secessionist rebels, the SIBC said.

The plan was described as a blue-print which matches recent military activity by Papua New Guinea defence forces on the northern part of the island.

The plan analyses the BRA and the administrative structure of the secessionists' interim government and concludes that its weakness lies in the BRA hierachy being based on the central east coast of the island.

The SIBC said the plan proposed landing soldiers on the north and south of the island and setting up permanent road blocks, so isolating these areas and enabling agents to win over support of the local population.

"There will be two road blocks established to seal off central Bougainville. They will be established at Korowena and Torokina," the SIBC quoted the plan as saying.

It said the plan goes on to direct the restoration of Papua New Guinea services on the north and south of the island.

The plan further recommends Joseph Kabui, chairman of the interim government and former Bougainville premier be investigated for misconduct in office.

The SIBC said the president of the secessionist government on Bougainville, Franis Ona, had called the plan "outrageous."

Commonwealth Official Meets Bougainville Rebels

BK0205050291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Port Moresby, May 2 (AFP)—A senior official of the Commonwealth secretariat has returned from Bougainville island after talks with rebel leaders aimed at saving a peace pact.

Neville Linton flew to the island Wednesday to meet rebel leaders Francis Ona and Sam Kauona days after Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu suggested there was no longer a need for outside help to settle the Bougainville conflict.

Mr. Namaliu told a news conference Sunday that with the co-operation of local chiefs and without a shot being fired, the government was slowly restoring services to the island while rebel resistance was crumbling.

He said that with involvement of the chiefs, an international supervisory team would not be necessary after all.

Among its provisions, the Honiara declaration signed earlier this year in the Solomons capital agreed to the involvement of an international supervisory team of personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Canada, Vanuatu and the Commonweath secretariat.

But the landing of 300 Papua New Guinea troops on Bougainville three weeks ago was seen to have jeopardised that move.

Mr. Linton told the times of Papua New Guinea after his return that Mr. Ona and Mr. Kauona had expressed their desire to see the Honiara declaration kept alive.

They had also reiterated the commitment by the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) to allowing a multinational supervisory team to be sent to the island.

Mr. Linton said he would prepare a technical assessment of the situation on Bougainville and report back to London and to the Papua New Guinea Government.

"My visit is only exploratory," he said. "The secretariat was asked by the PNG Government to organise a team to come here as specified under the Honiara accord.

"We are here to ask questions and get an idea of how many people are needed to carry out the supervisory role and what both sides think.

"In our talks with the government and the BRA, both sides agree we should have a multinational supervisory team sent to the island."

Comments on Multinational Team

BK0205085491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] A senior Commonwealth official has had a meeting with leaders of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] in Panguna to discuss the setting up of a multinational supervisory team for the secessionist island. The official, Dr. (Neville Linton), flew to Arawa yesterday for the historic meeting with BRA leaders Francis Ona and Sam Kauona.

On his return to Port Moresby today, Dr. (Linton) described his Panguna talks as technical and a lead up to the Commonwealth deciding whether to proceed with the multinational observer team as specified in the so-called Honiara Accord.